Repairs to local count to be completed in John Figure 1985 Expert says EQ trumps IQ in workplace. PAGE 5 Sallo and The Completed in John Figure 1985 For the Complete In John Figure 1985 For the C

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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MONDAY JUNE 24, 2019

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HR 559 goes to Trump

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com REPORTER

he fate of a thousand individuals in the CNMI now rests in the hands of President Donald J. Trump.

A total of 1,038 categorical parolees and employment authorization document holders are anxiously waiting for Trump's signature on a bill that would give them legal CNMI-only permanent resident status.

The bill, H.R. 559, is now at June 29, 2019. the White House and must be signed by Trump on or before along with their families, will

If not, these individuals,

have to leave the CNMI after U.S. Citizenship and Immi-See HR 559 on Page 4

IN 2018 GENERAL ELECTION 'CEC couldn't account for number of ballots'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE ferdie delatorre@saipantribune.com

The Office of the Public Auditor found that the Commonwealth Election Commission could not account for the number of ballots available, used, and unused during the 2018 general election, but also determined that CEC showed improved ballot accountability dur- Villagomez



ing the March 23 special election.

OPA described as "very concerning" CEC's inability to account for all ballots used throughout the duration of the 2018 general election.

OPA, however, commended CEC's effort to improve their process over ballot accountability during the March 2019 special election.

In CEC's response to OPA's find-

See CEC on Page 4

Budget bill now out of committee

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com

The \$233-million fiscal year



Ways and Means Committee held two days of marathon meetings over the weekend to iron out their version of the budget bill.

The committee met at 4pm on Friday, finished a little over

7pm, resumed at 9am on Saturday, and agreed to come out with a final product at past 1:30pm. The House will be having a session at 10am today to take up the bill.

See BUDGET on Page 4



Man passes away at work By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com REPORTER

maintenance personnel at the Horiguchi Building in Garapan, where the U.S.

District Court for



the NMI is located, suddenly



Talens



PRIDE WALK

See MAN on Page 4 Gov. Ralph DLG Torres accompanies participants of the Pride Walk during last Friday's Pride Walk from the Carolinian Utt in Garapan to the Paseo de Marianas.

Story on

Page 3

INSIDE



LOCAL

Leisha Deleon Guerrero is crowned the 2019 Miss Earth Northern Marianas.

AGE 2



BUSINESS

Explosions rick the Philadelphia Energy Solutions Refining Complex on the East Coast.

PAGE 14



LIFE & STYLE

Ten years ago, lawyer John Branca and Michael Jackson renewed their partnership.

PAGE 20



SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



2 MONDAY, JUNE 24, 2019 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Local

Leisha Deleon Guerrero is 2019 Miss Earth NM

marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Leisha Deleon Guerrero was crowned the 2019 Miss Earth Northern Marianas after the first-time pageant was staged in the CNMI last Saturday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's ballroom.

Deleon Guerrero went head-to-head with seven other young women for the crown and title of Miss Earth NMI. She will be representing the CNMI at the annual Miss Earth International pageant in the Philippines.

Deleon Guerrero is a 19-year-old early graduate of Marianas High School and currently a sophomore at the Northern Marianas College.

She hopes to one day become a veterinarian for the islands. As part of her environmental advocacy, Deleon Guerrero is concerned about the planned military activities in the northern islands.

"I am so grateful for this opportunity," Deleon Guerrero said.

She added that the whole Miss Earth NMI experience has been a learning experience



From left to right, Miss Water Jan Zowie Cruz, Miss Fire Katherine Johnson, 2019 Miss Earth NMI Leisha Deleon Guerrero, Miss Air Pheona David, and 2019 Miss Marianas Shannon Sasamoto pose for a photo after last Saturday's Miss Earth NMI pageant at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's ballroom.

and being able to give back to the community is at the forefront of her mind.

For her Miss Earth NMI victory, she took home the crown and sash, \$1,500 in cash, and other prizes.

Deleon Guerrero also won the People's Choice Earth Warrior, Best in Evening Gown, Best in Swimsuit, and Best in Native Costume.

Coming in second place and crowned Miss Air was Pheona David. David was awarded \$800 from Exquisite Productions and other prices. David also won the Miss Earth Environmental award.

Second runner-up and crowned Miss Water

Jan Zowie Cruz. Cruz was awarded \$500 from Exquisite Productions and got the Miss Photogenic award.

Completing the top 4 and crowned as Miss Fire was Katherine Johnson.

Mary Joy Masongsong

was awarded the Miss Earth Northern Marianas Exquisite Star and Miss Friendship awards.

The remaining Miss Earth NMI contestants were Nicole Malakai, Joanna Navarro, and Jessme Jones.

NAP office will be open on July 5

Program office will be open on Friday, July 5, 2019, for business and to serve households receive their benefits and renew their cases as previously published.

The issuance schedule for

The Nutrition Assistance to the 72-hour work schedule for the covered payroll period. Moving forward, the NAP office will close on all austerity or furlough Fridays beginning July 19, 2019. Following is the issuance schedule for the July 2019.

July 2019			
July 1, 2019	Case Record	July 9, 2019	Case Record
	ID ending with '1'		ID ending with '6'
July 2, 2019	Case Record	July 10, 2019	Case Record
	ID ending with '2'		ID ending with '7'
July 3, 2019	Case Record	July 11, 2019	Case Record
	ID ending with '3'		ID ending with '8'
July 5, 2019	Case Record	July 12, 2019	Case Record
	ID ending with '4'		ID ending with '9'
July 8, 2019	Case Record	July 15, 2019	Case Record
	ID ending with '5'		ID ending with '0'

July 2019 was published on May 17 before the austerity policy was issued May 30. In lieu, the NAP office will close on June 28, 2019 to conform

For more information, contact the NAP office at 237-2842 or 237-2843 or visit its Facebook page at https://www. facebook.com/nap.cnmi.





CNMI govt joins Pride Walk and proclaims Pride Week

By MARC VENUS

marc_venus@saipantribune.com REPORTER

In a historic first, the CNMI government linked up with

local organizations for the first-ever CNMI Pride Walk last Friday at the

Carolinian Utt in Garapan, which saw the participation of more than 200 individuals walking to the Paseo de Marianas.

The event also saw the Pride

22 to June 29 to start intake

collection on the impacts of the typhoon on business com-

munity and overall economy

IEDC has been collaborat-

ing with the CNMI Depart-

ment of Commerce, along

with the CNMI Office of Plan-

ning and Development, the

Commonwealth Development

Authority, and the Saipan

Chamber of Commerce to

plan projects that will improve

the resiliency of the economy.

IEDC experts will assist in

creating reports, hosting train-

ings, and community outreach

to help better support busi-

nesses in their recovery and to

"Following Typhoon Mang-

khut and Super Typhoon Yutu,

our economic activity was

deeply affected. We still re-

main hopeful and this collaboration with the IEDC provides

plan for future disasters.

post-Yutu.

Week proclamation signing by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and the unveiling of a rainbowcolored Pride crosswalk between the Paseo de Marianas

> and Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, which Pacific the Century Fellows have ad-

opted to maintain.

PAGE 8

Pride Week will be held this week; it starts today, June 24, and will end on Sunday, June 30.

In signing the Pride proc-

guilty plea to guilty.

in a group of individuals who

distribute drugs under the alias

list of other identities that fall

A key highlight of both the

Pride Walk and Pride Week

signing last Friday was the

keynote speech of Thia Se-

man, who spoke about being

afraid to tell her parents about

her sexual orientation, decid-

under the queer umbrella.

hearing on June 27 at 1:30pm.

Wang is facing two charges

ing to tell a classmate first, then overcoming her fears and eventually telling her parents about the matter.

Pride Marianas president and LGBTQ+ advocate Frankie Elliptico thanked all of Friday's volunteers.

"I am extremely happy about the turnout and the presence of our government offi-

LGBTQ+ individual still face many difficulties, prejudices, and violence. Data collected by the Federal Bureau of Investigation confirms that nationally, LGBTQ+ individuals are targets of violent hate crimes more often than any other minority.

cials," Elliptico added.

Man in drug trafficking case to plead guilty

A men involved in a group of alleged drug traffickers would be changing his initial not

lamation, Torres urged the

CNMI community to show

respect for one another, espe-

cially during difficult times for

the lesbian, gay, bisexual,

transgeder, queer, or question-

ing. The plus encompasses a

stands

the LGBTQ+ community.

LGBTQ+

Xiao Ping Wang, 41, is one of others allegedly involved

"brother."

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho scheduled Wang for a change of plea

of drug trafficking following a sting operation conducted by the Drug Enforcement Task Force.

Wang is one of several other "brothers" currently in jail custody who are awaiting trial.

According to court information, Wang was arrested fol-

lowing two sting operations in 2018, on Dec. 12 and on Dec. 17.

Wang is being tried for unlawfully manufacturing, delivering, or possessing the controlled substance methamphetamine. (Kimberly A. Bautista)

Business recovery outreach today The International Economic our ongoing economic recov-Development Council, as the ery efforts with our federal leading international associapartners and local government tion for professional economic to build upon our resilience developers, has received a against natural disasters,' grant from the U.S. Economic Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said. Development Administration Members of the business community are invited to meet to support technical assistance

RELATED NEWS

Proclamation Signing.

Pride Walk and

with the IEDC experts to disfor economic recovery and resiliency efforts in the CNMI. cuss their experiences and give The grant is being used to suggestions on how IEDC can help assess the economic imhelp with their business repact of Super Typhoon Yutu covery efforts. The outreach on the islands of Rota, Tinian, will be hosted by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and and Saipan, as well as provide will take place today, June technical assistance in business retention, expansion, and 24, from 3:30pm to 4:30pm at the Saipan Chamber of Comattraction efforts. merce office in the Marianas The initial team of economic experts from IEDC is Business Plaza, room 315. visiting the CNMI from June This opportunity is open to all

> the CNMI. For more information, contact Nicole Babauta of the Small Business Development Center at 664-3018 or email nbabauta@pacificsbdc.com.

> businesses and non-profits in

The IEDC is the leading international association for professional economic developers. IEDC supports the work of more than 5,000 economic developers to create highquality jobs, develop vibrant communities, and improve the quality of life in their regions. You can read about IEDC's disaster recovery efforts at restoreyoureconomy.org/. (PR)



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Repairs to local court to be completed by 2020

The CNMI Judiciary expects the repair work on the Guma Hustisia building to be completed by late 2020.

According to a video posted by Superior Court director Sonia A. Camacho, the widespread destruction of Super Typhoon Yutu in October 2018 stalled the building's re-opening. Fortunately, she said, all projects leading to the building's reopening continue and the Guma Hustisia's re-opening could be in late summer 2020.

"[We are hoping for] the mold remediation and air-conditioning replacement to be completed by late summer of 2020 but, again, these projects

will be contingent on the Federal Emergency Management Agency repair on the damage of the building," she said.

Camacho said the contract for the heating ventilation and air-conditioning system will be completed on July 5. Shortly after, construction can begin once a contractor takes on the project. "We have a mechanical engineer consultant on board that has been assisting the Judiciary since January 2019 but the construction documents for the HVAC system are anticipated to be completed by July 5. We will be entering the solicitation phase shortly after to select the contractor projects who will be taking on this project," she said.

As for the mold reme-

diation, ducts throughout the building will be replaced.

Camacho said the Judiciary's main priority is to repair the building's skylights first to prevent water and mold from entering the building and exposing the ducts to more mold.

"Super Typhoon Yutu completely restarted our progress for the mold remediation and the HVAC repair and upgrade. When the skylights were damaged, it became critical to first repair the skylights to prevent further water and moisture intrusion into the building and other related mold issues. Proceeding without this repair would result in newly replaced HVAC ducts being exposed to the same environmental conditions that promoted the spread of mold throughout the system to begin with," she said. (Kimberly A. Bautista)

CEC

From Page 1

ings, CEC executive director Julita Villagomez told Public Auditor Mike Pai last May 31, 2019, that CEC partially agrees and that the ballots were inventoried, but documentation was either misplaced during their relocation to the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center or destroyed

by Super Typhoon Yutu.

Regarding the lack of accountability of total ballots used and unused, Villagomez partially agrees and stated they failed to do through inspections of the binders prior to the poll supervisors' dismissal.

Villagomez blamed this oversight on the mental and physical exhaustion of surviving Super Typhoon Yutu.

Villagomez said the 2018 general election was the most

stressful election they had ever experienced.

"CEC staff and election officials were, for the most part, experiencing immediate and long-term hardships as a result of Super Typhoon Yutu," she said in a letter to Pai.

Villagomez said it is apparent that CEC's performance was seriously affected by Yutu during the 2018 general election, but it is also evident, through OPA's own obser-

vation, that CEC has made significant improvements in the process of ballot accountability during the March 2019 special election.

Villagomez said CEC values OPA's findings and recommendations and that its next action plan is to work with the Office of the Attorney General and the CNMI Legislature to propose an amendment to update the election laws, as they continue to seek methods and

best practices to maintain ballot accountability.

Acting public auditor David Blake informed Villagomez last Tuesday, June 18, of the results of their inspection of CEC's accountability of ballots during the 2018 general election.

OPA made the inspection last Oct. 19 to determine if CEC can account for all bal-

lots in the general election.

OPA found that although CEC provided documentation regarding the total ballots ordered, CEC could not account for the total number of blank ballots received from the vendor.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

MAN

From Page 1

passed away after collapsing while at the building's electrical room last Friday afternoon.

Saipan Tribune learned that Reuben Talens, who is in his early 60s, was with a co-worker and two court security officers inside the electrical room on the building's ground floor when the incident happened.

Talens injured his head in the fall, a witness said.

The Department of Public

Safety has yet to release information about the matter.

The electrical room is located near the entrance to the U.S. District Court for the NMI courtroom.

District Court chief deputy clerk Bill Bezzant said he was shocked to learn about what had happened because he just saw Talens that morning.

Bezzant said Talens, whom he had known the past 20-odd years, was always in the building every morning.

"In fact, sometimes I come here at 6am and Reuben (Talens) is already here, preparing things in the morning for maintenance of the building. He was the first one here every morning. [He was] very dedicated every day," Bezzant said.

Bezzant said Talens was always a very positive person.

He was not aware as the incident was happening as he did not hear any commotion or siren from an ambulance. Bezzant's office is on the second floor of the building.

A witness said he and Talens were both relaxing inside a small room in the electrical room when Talens stood up and suddenly fell.

Security officers then called 911. An ambulance arrived and brought Talens to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Prior to this, Talens had a mild stroke, according to his co-workers, which resulted in a slight limp in his walk.

Talens used to serve as a basketball referee on Saipan. He has a teen son who is studying on the island. Talens' wife was in the U.S. mainland when the incident happened.

BUDGET

From Page 1

House lawmakers are also set to discuss today House Concurrent Resolution 21-1, which sets the outlines available budgetary resources at \$148.8 million.

"The budget ceiling is the same at \$233 million but the resource available for appropriation is now approximately \$148.9 million," said Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan), minority bloc member who is with the committee.

Committee Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) told *Saipan Tribune* that there are several provisions that the committee agreed to change, including each of the discretionary funds of the offices of the governor and lieutenant governor.

"We struck [the discretionary funds] out. We eliminated it and allocated the funds to other agencies," he said. "In case we float a bond, we inserted language that the Legislature will appropriate any funds from the general fund being freed up because of the floating of the pension bonds."

The committee also inserted language that would allow the Legislature to get up-to-date figures on the government's collections and expenditures. "Because we feel that we would be able to make informed decisions if we had updated information rather that information that's a few quarters back."

Funding for the Carolinian Affairs Office and Indigenous Affairs Office was also discussed; several members questioned why the former had more funds. Rep. Roman C. Benavente (R-Saipan) suggested combining both agencies into one.

But Blanco pointed out that having separate CAO and IAO is based on the CNMI Constitution. "If you look at their operations, they are different. They have different amounts allocated; one is \$9,000 (IAO) while the other one is \$58,000 (CAO). If we

look at the numbers of personnel: one has more, that's why there's more budget allotted. CAO has more personnel."

Rep. Joel C. Camacho (R-Saipan) also introduced a motion that would appropriate funding to give the Legislative Bureau's fiscal analysts—David Demapan and Perry Tenorio—access and training to the JDA software.

"This will provide a better system and a more efficient data gathering. It will give us the link that we need. The Legislature appropriated money and we need access to this information. The provision is for funding the training," Camacho told *Saipan Tribune*.

HR 559

From Page 1

gration Services terminated the categorical parole program last December. They were given a 180-day window to transition to other legal status but it is not yet known how many availed of other U.S. work visas.

H.R. 559, introduced by Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) and also called the Northern Mariana Islands Long-Term Legal Residents Relief Act, is specifically for those who are under the categorical parole program who have continuously and legally resided in the CNMI since Nov. 28, 2009.

It should not be confused with H.R. 560, also introduced by Sablan, which is separate and hopes to give CNMI-only resident status to workers under the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker Visa program.

CNMI Washington Office director Jason Osborne told Saipan Tribune that H.R. 559 passed the Senate last Friday (Thursday in Washington, D.C.) by unanimous consent in a process they call the wrap. Any senator can ask for a wrap—the unanimous consent on the floor that sets aside the rules of procedure and expedite proceedings. If no senator objects, the request push-

es forward.

Jerry Tubale, who is an EAD holder, said the news gave individuals like him some hope even with five days left before the expiration of the program. "I know some people who will be leaving the CNMI this Sunday. We hope President Trump signs it, so they won't have to leave and be separated from their kids," he said in Tagalog.

The 34-year-old Tubale, who works as a sales representative at Westco, added the company that employs him has already applied for a CW-1 permit for him so he could continue working legally in the Commonwealth. He has been working in the CNMI for 13 years and has six U.S. citizen children.

John, a former employee of the now-defunct Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, who asked to be named only by an alias, also welcomed the news.

"It is still welcome news. A slight good news. At least we can now breathe a little easier. We're just hoping President Trump signs it, since it is also for our kids and family. So, we can still continue working," he said.

Stop false information

Itos Feliciano, one of the individuals who helped organize the foreign workers under the program, is asking other people to stop spreading incorrect information based on their in-

terpretation of H.R. 559. The foreign workers under the parole program are from mostly from Bangladesh, China, and the Philippines.

"Please avoid giving false information...if they don't fully understand the provisions in the bill. They are just creating false hopes [in] other people who are not eligible under H.R. 559....We're hoping and praying that President Trump signs the bill this week."

H.R. 559 and H.R. 560 have almost the same language since both of Sablan's bills aim to give CNMI-only permanent residency status to long-term foreign workers who have legally resided in the Commonwealth. However, H.R. 559 would address the current situation of parolees as they would lose their legal status by June 29.

Kilili thanks Murkowski

Sablan credits Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) for the quick passage of H.R. 559 in the Senate.

"She understands why the Marianas needs special consideration, when it comes to immigration issues, and she has been willing to use her political skills to help us," he said.

Sablan introduced H.R. 559 last Jan. 15, shortly after the Trump administration announced it was ending humanitarian parole for

five groups of people in the Marianas. The Obama administration set up parole programs in 2009 and 2011. They covered persons who had been born in the Marianas, but were not covered by citizenship provisions of the Marianas Covenant of Political Union with the United States. Persons granted permanent resident status under Commonwealth law in the early 1980s were also covered by the Obama policy, as were certain in-home caregivers and immediate relatives of U.S. citizens.

"The Trump administration did not agree with use of executive authority to allow these long-term, legal residents to stay in the Marianas," Sablan said. "However, the Trump administration did agree that these 1,039 individuals should stay, if Congress provided a basis in law. The Trump administration drafted what became H.R. 559 and supported passage, when I held a hearing on the issue in February."

Sablan said, because of the Trump administration's support, he is hopeful that the President will sign H.R. 559 before the June 29 deadline.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres testified at Sablan's February hearing and agreed to permanent status in the Marianas for the parolees.

Collaborative work

Blanco said the committee is pleased with the product of their two-day meeting. "All Ways and Means members had their input. Before we started this exercise, we also had the opportunity to sit with the Senate members of the Fiscal Affairs Committee and asked them what...they want to include."

"Overall, in my opinion and to the best of my knowledge, we tried to get everybody in on this. This is the product that we came out with today. I'm pretty sure there will be changes, but that's fine; it is a working document. We want our partners at the Senate to look at it carefully in case we missed anything."

Sablan thanked Blanco and the majority members of the committee for giving the minority the chance to hear some of their requests. "The minority prepared a list of requests for the committee to consider in the budget act. Some, but not all, of our recommendations were accepted and incorporated into the draft budget act," she said.

House floor leader Rep. John Paul P. Sablan (R-Saipan) told *Saipan Tribune* that the budget bill is a package that both the majority and minority worked on.

The Legislature must pass the budget before the end of this fiscal year, Sept. 30.

Woman pleads guilty to possessing chemical for making meth

A woman pleaded guilty last Thursday for her involvement in a conspiracy to possess a chemical that was intended to be used to make crystal methamphetamine using the socalled shake-and-bake method.

At a change of plea hearing in federal court, Joanne Marie Deleon Guerrero Castro pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to possess pseudoephedrine, a listed chemical, knowing it would be used to make "ice."

The offense carries a maxi-

mum penalty of not more than 20 years in prison and a fine of

The advisory sentencing guideline range is between 97

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona set Castro's sentencing for July 15 at 9am. Castro was allowed to remain

appointed counsel for Castro. Assistant U.S. attorney Garth

Minority: Prioritize CHCC, schools

The minority bloc recommended a number of priorities as the House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee wrapped up work on the fiscal year 2020 budget bill.

It has been reported that that the committee already has a final budget product for presentation to the House.

Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan), one of two minority members on the committee, said the Commonwealth Health Care Corp. and the Public School System are two critical agencies that need continuous funding. She added that CHCC remains underfunded and the judicial branch also needs to remain open and functioning.

Sablan said that they asked committee chair Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) and the committee to include funding and language of having a feasibility study for CHCC. "The feasibility study is to look at the options that the Legislature might consider for expanding access to healthcare coverage."

"Because, it is no secret that CHCC has talked about this for quite a long time...[that] there's a significant percentnot to exceed \$1 million.

to 121 months of imprisonment.

at liberty until then.

Robert Torres is the court-

age of our population-40 percent of our adults-who have no coverage at all."

Sablan said this needs a solution. "If they are low income or they can't afford to pay, then ultimately it is the taxpayers and CHCC that absorbs the costs. So, we think that it is time to start thinking ahead. Thinking long-term and really study our options; see what's feasible. We can't continue with this status quo forever."

PSS is another critical area that needs significant funding, according to Sablan. "We need to make sure our school—PSS and the Northern Marianas College—are prioritized in this budget."

"Both were heavily impacted by Super Typhon Yutu and both are delivering critical services. They have submitted some bottom line figures that we wanted to make sure do get included in the budget."

She said the minority also suggested that the salary increases of the governor, lieutenant governor, Cabinet members, and municipal mayors—which recently got pay raises—be rolled back. (Jon Perez)

government.

According to police, between Aug. 12, 2017 and Jan. 25, 2018, Castro and others were caught with pseudoephedrine, a listed chemical,

Backe represented the U.S. knowing it would be used to manufacture "ice."

> Castro admitted to buying 36,600 milligrams of pseudoephedrine 14 times from pharmacies on Saipan.

Last April, Manglona sen-

tenced David Muna Sablan to three years and five months in prison after he pleaded guilty to leaving behind two bags in Garapan that were found to contain chemicals and items used in making methamphet-

amine through the shake-andbake method.

Last March 15, Manglona slapped Vincent David Cabrera Jr. and Eugene Repeki Jr. each with a sentence of 15 years imprisonment. The two pleaded guilty to allegations that they were involved in a clandestine "ice laboratory." (Ferdie De La Torre)

trumps IO Expert says E in workplace

Even more than intelligence quotient, emotional intelligence in the workplace is a fundamental tool to organizational success, according to Dr. John Rivera of University of the Guam.

Speaking in last week's meeting of the Society for Human Resource Management-NMI Chapter, Rivera said that EQ—a person's ability to master his or her emotions—has enormous effects in the workplace.

"One's IQ and personality are important. ... Those are qualities associated with leadership and success but it has its limitations. It is fixed and does not change. EQ is a skill that you can learn as you go about in life," he said.

Citing studies, Rivera said those with high EQ on average outperform those with high IQ by 70 percent and IQ counts for one's success on a job only by 12 percent on average.

"...IQ is a good way to sort people in a large population pool. ...This gets you to the door but EQ is linked with strong performance and determines how far you can go," he said in front of a packed crowd at the Hyatt Regency Saipan ballroom.

Rivera said that people with high EQ perform better and get along with other people in the workplace because they are smart with their feelings. "These people consider the consequences, are optimistic, neutralize emotions, take 10 (or not quick to get into a conflict), regulate, openly accepts, and look for alternatives."

Cultivating and nurturing these characteristics will have good results for employers in the long run. "Companies will have good people, peaceful work, increased team performance and greater profits," he added.

Trainings and getting a company's EQ profile to improve the workplace are available as EQ is a quality that is important at every level of a person's career and EQ in the work place cannot happen without a sincere concerted effort.

"It does not matter where you start training employees, whether upper, middle, and low levels. Anywhere you start is good. ...growth happens almost immediately and exponentially," he said.

Anna Olaes, human resources manager and marketing assistant of McDonald's Saipan, said the presentation was an eve-opener. "It is assuring that we don't have to hire people

based solely on their educational attainment, that hiring people based on their skills tend to be successful and productive in the work that they do."

"At our company, we look at the level of education but we also look at the skillset of the person because this tells you what they are capable of doing and their potential. In the workplace, we nurture good relationships with our employees by keeping the communication line [open]," she added.

Pina Deleon Guerrero, Human Resources senior manager of Fiesta Resort & Spa and SHRM officer, said that EQ is not something new to the HR community. "But after the presentation today...we are hoping that we have inspired people to look more into emotional intelligence, how it impacts the workplaces and how they can use it," she said. (Bea Cabrera)

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6 MONDAY, JUNE 24, 2019 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Miss Earth Northern Marianas 2019

PHOTOS By MARC VENUS





Contestant No. 2, Leisha Deleon Guerrero shows off her costume during last Saturday's Miss Earth NMI pageant at the Hyatt Regen-



during last Saturday's Miss Earth NMI pageant at the Hyatt



Contestant No. 7 Pheona David answers a question during the Q&A segment of last Saturday's Miss Earth NMI pageant at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's ballroom.

Contestant No. 4 May Joy Masongsong showcases her costume during last Saturday's Miss Earth NMI pageant at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's ballroom.

Contestant No. 3 Joanna Navarro answers a question during the Q&A segment of last Saturday's Miss Earth NMI pageant at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's ballroom.

Authorities say 9 killed after aircraft crashes in Hawaii

people on board a twin engine aircraft died Friday night in a crash on Oahu's North Shore, officials said.

There were no survivors in the crash of the King Air plane near a small airport, Hawaii Department of Transportation spokesman Tim Sakahara said.

"Upon arrival, we saw the plane fully engulfed in fire," Honolulu Fire Chief Manuel Neves told reporters on the scene. "The first crews on scene extinguished the fire."

Neves said the crashed occurred near the perimeter fencing of the small airport. "They're quite a ways away from the runway," he said.

Crews with Honolulu Emergency Services said nouncements of the nine after receiving the call at 6:26 p.m. local time, agency spokeswoman Shayne Enright said.

Names, ages and genders of the deceased have not

The crash occurred near the small Dillingham Airfield, an airport on the North Shore. The highway fronting the airport was closed in both directions.

Other details of the crash,

including whether the plane was landing or taking off at the time of the crash, weren't immediately known, Sakahara said.

Officials initially reported that six people had been on board.

Family says Hawaii crash victim was adventurer, full of life

HONOLULU (AP)—Casev Williamson's love of adventure led him to winter snowboarding in Vail, Colorado, and summer skydiving in Moab, Utah. A year-and-ahalf ago, he found his way to Hawaii, where he could skydive year-round.

On Friday, the 29-year-old was among 11 killed when their skydiving plane crashed and burned at a coastal airfield on the island of Oahu. It was the worst civilian aviation accident in the U.S. since 2011.

Williamson was his mother Carla Ajaga's only child, his cousin Natacha Mendenhall said.

"We're all very upset," said Mendenhall, speaking from her home in Fort Worth, Texas. "She cannot really talk right now. What she wants everyone to know is how full of life her son was, how loving he was."

Williamson, who was from Yukon, Oklahoma, worked as an instructor and as a videographer who filmed customers as they dove. He was trying to earn more jumping hours and learn the trade, Mendenhall said.

Williamson's family has not been officially notified of his death. But they provided Honolulu police with Williamson's name and date of birth, and the police confirmed he was on the flight, Mendenhall said.

No one aboard survived the crash, which left a small pile of smoky wreckage near the chain link fence surrounding Dillingham Airfield about an hour north of Honolulu.

Steven Tickemyer said he saw the plane take flight, get 75 to 100 feet (22 to 30 meters) off the ground and turn away from the mountain range nearby.



This June 2019 photo provided by Natacha Mendenhall shows Casey Williamson, left, and his mother Carla Ajaga in Possum Kingdom Lake, Texas.

He said the plane then started to nosedive and flip over belly forward so that it was upside down. The aircraft then flipped over again and hit the ground nose first. There was an explosion when it hit the ground.

This all transpired in about 20 to 30 seconds, said Tickemyer, who watched from a beach across the street where he was attending a friend's small wedding ceremony.

He and his friends hopped in his truck, called 911 and drove over to help. They screamed to see if anyone would respond, but no one did, he said.

The crash appeared to be the worst U.S. civil aviation accident since a 2011 accident at the Reno Air Show in Nevada that killed the pilot and 10 spectators.

Officials in Hawaii initially reported that nine people had died and that three of them were customers of the skydiving company operating the plane and that six were employees. But the Hawaii Department of Transportation tweeted Saturday that officials later "confirmed there were 11 people on board the plane" and no survivors. They were not identified.

The flight was operated by the Oahu Parachute Center skydiving company. The ratio of employees to customers aboard suggested that tandem jumps may have been planned in which the customers would have jumped while attached to experienced skydivers, Tim Sakahara, a spokesman for the Hawaii Department of Transportation, told reporters.

Witness Wylie Schoonover saw the plane flying over trees while driving from a nearby YMCA camp after picking up a friend. Then she saw smoke billowing from the airfield and drove over.

There was an "insane amount of fire," she said.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-19-013, Rev.1

AGINGAN PRIMARY SCREEN PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified vendors for the attainment of a Primary Screen for the Agingan Wastewater Treatment Plant at CUC Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-work will be emailed to all registered prospective proposers email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and four (4) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-19-013, Rev.1 Agingan Primary Screen Project" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than July 19, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST). Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Proponents shall comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on July 2, 2019 to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator at email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Westen Knudsen, P.E., Senior Engineer for Water/Wastewater at email address westen.knudsen@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrative Technician, Senior at email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO

MANNY B. SABLAN Purchasing Administrator



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Tel: (670) 664-2371 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF ROLL-OFF TRUCK WITH CABLE HOIST for the TINIAN TRANSFER STATION

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed bids for the Supply and Delivery of Roll-Off Truck with Cable Hoist for the Tinian Transfer Station, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)

The project package will be available on June 5, 2019 at the Office of Management & Budget, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001 and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30-3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. There will be a pre-bid conference for this project on Wednesday, June 18, 2019, 10:00 am ChST at the CIP Office in Capitol Hill, Saipan. Questions concerning this project shall be directed to Ms. Nerissa Benavente in writing by e-mail: nerissa.cip@gmail.com, on or before Wednesday, June 21, 2019 to the Capital Improvement Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or fax (670) 664-2408. All responses to inquiries will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked ITB19-GOV-OB3 Supply and Installation of Roll-off Truck with Cable Hoist for the Tinian Transfer Station. For bidders within the Sealed bids must be marked ITBIS-EUO-VOS Supply and installation of Roll-on ITUCK with Capite Hots for the Itihan Iranser Station. For folders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan no later than 10:00 a.m. ChST July 3, 2019. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. ChST July 3, 2019 and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664–1515, or via e-mail to procurement@Complet. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than July 3, 2019 and the bid documents must be received no later than July 11, 2019. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan at 10:30 a.m. ChST July 12, 2019. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be open at 10:00 a.m. ChST July 3, 2019.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CMM Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00.

Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations)

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract. Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Government Securities

Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange

4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Fighty (180) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by 180 calendar days, the contract time and will be accessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Ralph DLG. Torres

Herman S. Sablan, Director CNMI Procurement & Supply

8 MONDAY, JUNE 24, 2019 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Pride Walk and Proclamation Signing

PHOTOS BY MARC VENUS



Volunteers at the beadmaking station pose for a photo during last Friday's Pride Walk and proclamation signing at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan.



Participants of the Pride Walk pose for a photo last Friday at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan just before the start of the walk to Paseo de Marianas.



2019 Miss Marianas Shannon Sasamoto reads the proclamation of Pride Week last Friday during the proclamation signing and Pride Walk at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan.



A participant registers for the Pride Walk last Friday at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan just before the start of the walk to Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.



Supporters of the LGBTQ+ community in the CNMI pose with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres for a photo shortly after the Pride Week proclamation signing last Friday at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan.



Pride Marianas president Frankie Elliptico delivers his opening remarks during last Friday's Pride Walk and proclamation signing at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan.



Rep. Sheila Babauta (I-Saipan) announces the rules of the Pride Walk shortly after the proclamation signing last Friday at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan.



Participants of the Pride Walk deliver the Pride flag during last Friday's Pride Walk at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan.



Keynote speaker Thia Seman delivers her speech during last Friday's Pride Walk and proclamation signing at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan.



Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signs the proclamation for Pride Week during the proclamation signing and Pride Walk last Friday at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan.



Organizers and participants of the Pride Walk pose for a photo last Friday at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan just before the start of the walk to Paseo de Marianas.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Precinct 2 reps call for tree planting volunteers

Precinct 2 representatives Christina Sablan and John Paul Sablan invite members of the community to help plant trees along the coast this Saturday, June 29, at Sugar Dock Beach, from 9am to 11am.

The representatives are teaming up in support of the "Bring Back Our Trees" project led by Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance in collaboration with CNMI Division of Forestry, Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research Extension and Educational Services, Bureau of Coastal and Environmental Quality, the Saipan Mayor's Office, and other community partners.

Native trees will be planted along the shoreline to replace trees lost in Super Typhoon Yutu and to promote a more resilient coastal environment and healthier coral reefs. Water, gloves, and tools will be provided, though volunteers are welcome to bring their own.

For more information, contact MINA at 233-7333 (REEF) or email minaoutreach@gmail.com. Or call the Office of Rep. Tina Sablan at 664-8829 or the Office of Rep. John Paul Sablan at 664-8965. **(PR)**

Zhen Yu Su lands on SUNY dean's list

NEW PALTZ, NY—The State University of New York New Paltz congratulates Zhen Yu Su of Saipan for being named to the dean's list for the spring 2019 semester.

Dean's list designation is reserved for students who excel academically and earn at

least a 3.3 grade-point average in a semester with a full-time course load. (PR)

USDOL funding to support employee policy development for youth with disabilities WASHINGTON, D.C—The

U.S. Department of Labor has announced the availability of approximately \$4 million for a four-year cooperative agreement for a youth-focused disability policy development center. The solicitation is a re-competition of an existing cooperative agreement. The deadline to apply is July 23, 2019

Administered by the department's Office of Disability Employment Policy, the funding will support continued work on ODEP's National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth. This youth policy development center will conduct research, engage with the workforce system and its partners, identify effective policies and practices that support youth with disabilities, and provide resources and training to help support the transition of youth with disabilities to employment.

"Like their peers, youth with disabilities should grow up expecting to work and succeed. We must ensure they are supported in meeting this expectation at every turn," said Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Office of Disability Employment Policy, Jennifer Sheehy. "Our youth-focused disability policy development center will play a key role in helping educators, service providers, family members, employers, and others support youth with disabilities as they

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Commonwealth Judiciary

Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950

Telephone (670) 236-9770 • Facsimile (670) 236-9797

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP19-JUDICIARY-07

SUBMISSION DATE: July 17, 2019

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

"WINDOW CAULKING"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE CASHIER

WINDOW. WINDOW #1. LOCATED AT THE FRONT GUMA HUSTISIA /

IIMWAL AWEEWE / HOUSE OF JUSTICE, SUSUPE, SAIPAN, DURING

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS,

NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR

ALL PROPOSALS. OR PORTIONS THEREOF. AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL

DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI

GRATUITIES. KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

transition from school to adulthood and the world of work."

The full announcement will be available at www.grants. gov. Visit ODEP's website for more information. (PR)

IEDC experts consult **NMI** businesses

Economic development experts from the International Economic Development Council will be visiting island this week to do an initial intake visit to plan their business recovery technical assistance plan over the next two years.

Today, June 24, the Saipan Chamber of Coimmerce will be hosting a Super Typhoon Yutu Business Recovery Discussion at the SCC office, from 3:30pm to 4:30pm so that businesses can give direct feedback to IEDC. (PR)

Military training in Dandan, FDM, open ocean

ASAN, Guam—Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 will conduct training on June 25-27, from 11am to 11:55pm at the Dandan-Malojloj training site in Inarajan.

These types of trainings are designed to enhance the readiness of military personnel. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the training.

The public should be advised that routine helicopter training often accompanied with the use of blanks can occur during these trainings.

The U.S. Air Force and U.S. Marine Corps will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- June 24, 26, and 27, from 10:30am to 9pm
- June 25, from 8-10am and 3:30-5:30pm
 - June 28, 1:30-9pm

This training supports aircrew combat readiness and is critical to developing the skills needed to respond to operational missions throughout the region to ensure a stable, free

and open Indo-Pacific.

The location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be within a 12-nautical-mile radius of the island.

The U.S. Navy will conduct open-ocean exercises within a 10-nautical-mile radius of the following coordinates: 13°26"N/145°08"E and 13°42"N/144°36"E during the following dates and times:

- June 24, from 3pm to 9pm
- June 25, from 5pm to 9pm
- June 26, from 6pm to 10pm

It is recommended the public, fishermen, and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. (PR)



COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands P.O. Box 500237, Saipan, MP 96950 Tel: 1 (670) 233-1857 • Fax: 1 (670) 233-1856 www.cnmicasinocommission.com Email: info@cnmicasinocommission.com

AGENDA

Pursuant to the Open Government Act. Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Commonwealth Casino Commission ("Commission"), hereby give notice that the Commission has scheduled a regular meeting on Thursday, June 27 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at the Conference Room located on the 2nd Floor of the Commission's main office at the Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai, Saipan.

The following Agenda will be discussed:

PRELIMINARIES:

- Call to Order Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda
- D. Adoption of Minutes: May 23, 2019

- Report by the Chairman
- B. Report by the Executive Director **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS:

- Casino Licensee (IPI) Undates:
- Construction Progress Imperial Pacific Resort & Hotel.

 IPI Personnel Resident Employment Objectives & CLA Annual Plan.
- Responsible Gaming Program.
- Compliance Committee
- Other IPI Matters Other Miscellaneous Matters

OLD BUSINESS:

- Update on House Bill 21-11.
- Other Old Business Matters NEW BUSINESS:

Approval for Regular Casino Vendor Licenses – Non-Gaming Vendors

- Pacific Changhong Corporation. Sale and installation of air-conditioning equipment. Provisional License expires on 07/13/19.
- Trans Eurokars Pte Ltd. dba Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Singapore Distributor of motor vehicles. Provisional License expires on 06/30/19.
- Request to Withdraw Applications for the Regular Casino Vendor Licenses
- **Rockey Company, Limited.** Construction material supplier. Provisional License expired on 02/04/19. Sanderia Group Limited dba Redfin Aquarium Design. Acrylic
- aquarium manufacturer. Provisional License expired on 10/27/18. Tropical Gardens, Inc. Landscaping services. Provisional License
- Recommendations for Denial of Applications for the Regular Non-Gaming Casino Vendor Licenses - Insufficient Information & Non-Responsive
 - Falcon Fire Protection, LLC. Fire protection services. Provisional License expired on 09/14/18
 - Firmstone Building Materials, Ltd. Supplier of building material products. Provisional License expired on 06/05/19.
 - Hong Kong Security Centre Ltd. Ironmongery provider. Provisiona License expires on 07/16/19.
 - Mariana Pioneer (CNMI), LLC. Mechanical and electrical consulting and inspection provider. Provisional License expired on 12/11/18
 - Million Hope New-Tech. Building Supplies (Hui Zhou) Limited Construction material supplier. Provisional License expired on 04/17/19.
 - Saint Trading Co., Inc. Janitorial, housekeeping and manpowe services. Provisional License expired on 11/30/17
 - Supertech, Inc. dba White Coconut Computer Services.
 - Network/cable installation for data and telephone/security camera provider. Provisional License expired on 04/30/18 Union Victory Technologies Development Ltd. Kitchen equipment
- nd wine cellar supplier. Provisional License expired on 05/23/19 W.W. Grainger. Distributor of mechanical and electrical equipment and
- supplies. Provisional License expired on 12/06/18. Notification of CCC's Issuance of a Provisional Casino Key Employee
- (CKE) License. Mr. Larry D. Evans, Jr., IPI's Director of Electronic Gaming Operations
- Issued Date: 06/03/19. Expiration Date: 06/03/20. Consideration of Stipulated Agreement in DEI Case No. 18-0024-I (Executive Director v. Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC. CCC Order 2019-004: Order confirming Stipulated Agreement in DEI Case No.

18-0024-I (Executive Director v. Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC).

Approval and adoption of Commission's permanent Personnel Regulations. Sub-Chapter 175-10.3 (Personnel Regulations).

Other New Business EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- IPI Financial Matters
- Report by the CCC Audit and Compliance Divisions
- Report by the Legal Counsel

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Commission reserves the right to amend this agenda and take action on the amended agenda pursuant to 1 CMC §9910(b). Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Commission may vote to meet in Executive Session. In addition, the Commission may extend its official meeting for another day or more, if necessary.

Joseph C. Reves Acting Chairman

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220 Telephone: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131



PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seg), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold its regular board meeting on Friday, June 28, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building. The following agenda will be considered and public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA

Preliminary Matters

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda Adoption of Minutes D.
 - March 5, 2019 Regular Board Meeting
 - March 8, 2019 Continued Regular Board Meeting
 - March 11, 2018 Continued Regular Board Meeting
- Correspondence

Management Reports

- Executive Director's Report
 - PP1 Engine Number 8
 - Rota Generators
- CUC-CPA Agreement
- Chief Financial Officer's Report
 - Statement of Net Position as of May 31, 2019
 - Statement of Cash Flow as of May 31, 2019
 - 2019 Budget vs Current Financials
 - Financial Projections for remaining Fiscal 2019 year
 - Averaged Monthly Electrical Usage for Each Government Agency

III. Committee Reports

Personnel Committee Report

IV. Old Business

- Telesource Contract
 - 1. Comparison analysis from ED & Administration pertaining to Telesource takeover or Issuance of New IFB

New Business

- CUC FY 2018 Audit Report
- CPUC Requests 1. Rate Increase
 - Rate Structure
- Austerity measure options in lieu of CNMI economic shortfall
- Reduction of Staff Hours
- Payroll cuts among "Salary" or "Contract" staff
- **Others** D. Basic Cost of Services Study
- VI. Public Comments* VII. Executive Session**
- VIII. Adjournment
 - Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to
 - three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments. Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board of Directors may vote to meet in executive session at any time

/s/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO CHIEF JUSTICE

GOVERNMENT.

REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

/s/ JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ **JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER** 10 MONDAY, JUNE 24, 2019 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Opinion



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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Jon Stewart's not joking: Mitch McConnell needs to move on the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund

Trade Center heroes and victims. Keep it up.

He joined our calls in 2010, pushing Congress to create the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund and a health program. He was with us again in 2015, urging lawmakers to extend the fund and guarantee lifetime medical coverage. Now he's back, fighting to make the fund permanent as legitimate claims grow and the Department of Justice is having to sharply cut deserving victims' payouts.

Most importantly, Stewart has engaged with Senate Major-



Entertainer and activist Jon Stewart lends his support to firefighters, first responders and survivors of the September 11 terror attacks at a hearing by the House Judiciary Committee as it considers permanent authorization of the Victim Compensation Fund, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, June 11, 2019.

ity Leader Mitch McConnell. McConnell's words are heartening: "We have never failed to address this issue." "We will take care of the 9/11 victims compensation fund." "There's no way we won't address this problem appropriately. We have in the past. We will again in the future."

With a new Mount Sinai study showing a direct link between WTC responders' exposure to the toxic dust and prostate cancer, the future is here. Bipartisan House sponsorship has climbed more than 100 above the 218 majority; the bill cleared the 41-member Judiciary Committee without objection.

Backers run from the oldest and longest serving member, Don Young, to the youngest freshmen, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Republicans Dan Crenshaw, Anthony Gonzalez and William Timmons. AOC and they don't agree on much, but here they stand as one.

A half dozen more Senate Republicans stepped up in the last week: John Hoeven, Rick Scott, Dan Sullivan, Deb Fischer, Joni Ernst and Steve Daines. Marco Rubio, Pat Toomey and Rob Portman were there before and are needed again. McConnell knows what he must do.

(c)2019 New York Daily News



Science fiction prescriptions for dying coral reefs

he Great Barrier Reef is bleached and dying. Because oceans are heating so quickly, nearly all of the world's corals are projected to be dead by 2050.

Now, however, a handful of entrepreneurial scientists, many of whom have spent their careers studying the reefs that are dying before their eyes, are devising extreme measures to try to save them.

Many of the solutions seem as if they're ripped from some dystopian, science fiction novel. There are teams trying to brighten clouds so they reflect more sunlight back to space, others who want to apply floating sunscreen to acres of ocean surface. There are robots programmed to hunt and kill coral predators and groups scouring the globe for "supercorals" or attempting to breed them.

The dedication of these coral experts attempting scientific Hail Marys to save their reefs is inspiring, their technological savvy heroic.

But it's also heartbreaking to realize we've fouled our planet so badly by polluting and warming our oceans that we now must resort to almost fantastical measures to save our reefs. And some of the proposed solutions have raised worries about unintended consequences.

For decades, the world's coral reefs have been subject to all manner of assault including overfishing, pollution and habitat destruction. But the main enemy of these massive colonies of tiny marine invertebrates is global warming.

Even a temperature rise of a few degrees, as the Great Barrier Reef has seen during marine heat waves in recent years, can cause bleaching, in which corals expel the symbiotic bacteria that live inside them and feed them. The increasing acidity caused by excess carbon dioxide absorbed by the ocean makes it hard for corals to build their shells. Sea level rise and stronger storms damage reefs as well. The outlook is bleak.

So coral scientists, fueled by money from Google, the late Paul Allen and the Australian government, are trying whatever they can

One plan calls for using cannons to shoot nanodroplets of salt into clouds to brighten them so they reflect more sunlight back into space. Another project involves pumping layers of polymer film, far thinner than a human hair, over ocean waters to act as floating sunscreen.

There are proposals to pump cold water up from the ocean depths to lower the temperature of shallow coral lagoons, cover reefs with massive floating shade structures and even pulse sickly reefs with electrical currents to speed their growth.

One scientist has developed a "Ranger-bot" that could autonomously roam reefs, launching torpedoes armed with bile salts

By USHA LEE MCFARLING

Los Angeles Times

Usha Lee McFarling, a former science writer at The Times, was co-winner of a Pulitzer Prize for explanatory journalism in 2007, for a series of articles about the crisis facing the world's oceans.



to kill the venomous crown-of-thorns starfish that relentlessly chew their way through reefs and have become more voracious in the acidified waters of our warming world.

Others went to energy roofs with outlibities or heatering

Others want to spray reefs with antibiotics or bacteriagobbling viruses to prevent disease. Wellness cures that seem inspired by pricey spa menus are abundant as well: There are suggestions for antioxidant and nutritional supplements for coral, and, of course, researchers are tinkering with the coral microbiome.

Some teams are scouring the globe looking for "super corals" that have evolved to grow happily in naturally hotter areas such as volcanic vents, coastal mangroves, even the Persian Gulf, to see if the animals can still thrive if relocated to areas where other corals have died.

And then there's a kind of "coral IVF," mixing coral sperm and eggs in the lab to assist reproduction. The offspring are sometimes grown directly onto small clips for easy reintegration back onto reefs or placed on giant offshore plastic "trees" made of PVC pipe to grow up.

Many of the scientists working on these imaginative remedies admit the ideas seem crazy. In fact, some of those involved with the coral rescue projects today described them as "silly," "ridiculous" or "out there" just a few years ago. But coral reefs are collapsing so fast that many scientists have shifted into extreme rescue mode.

The work on remedies is moving quickly, too, which has caused some alarm. In Australia, environmental lawyers are waving their arms trying to get project leaders to think about regulation, environmental impact and community buy-in before projects progress further.

Because many of the plans, like brightening clouds or dosing reefs with antibiotics, could have global implications, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine has also gotten involved, releasing two reports in quick succession on how such work should proceed.

Coral reefs—great, silent underwater ecosystems—are well-See SCIENCE on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICYLetters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immedi-

ately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Don't target Chinese in the US for Beijing's sins

ington has grown increasingly ugly and hostile. The Trump administration, concerned about intellectual property theft and other questionable behavior on the part of Beijing, has embarked on a program of targeting students and professionals of Chinese descent. Not only are these actions antithetical to America's immigrant roots, they are damaging to U.S. interests and competitiveness. Stoking racial divides is exactly the wrong way to fight the problem.

The U.S. has long had policy differences with the People's Republic of China, but the current White House and the national security community have ratcheted up those differences into a war on Western democratic ideals.

In his testimony before Congress last year, FBI Director Christopher A. Wray said that Chinese students and researchers represented a "whole-of-society threat"; in other words, to the American way of life. Later, a State Department official, Kiron Skinner, racialized the conflict: For the first time, the U.S., she said, is facing "a great power competitor that is not Caucasian."

This culturally charged, zero-sum mentality has already translated into anti-Chinese policies. Student and work visas for Chinese nationals have been curtailed. In early 2017, the Trump administration began whittling away at the Optional Practical

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

War with the Ayatollah?

It seems there is something in the news daily explaining to us why we should not like the Iranis very much. It reminds me of Syria. The "news" barrage goes on for months or years until we dislike folks enough to start shooting. It reminds me of Iraq and Afghanistan and Panama and..

Iran says if we keep applying economic pressure via sanctions, they will block off the Strait of Hormuz through which 20 percent of the world's oil flows in tankers. Someone has gone as far as to bomb five of said tankers. We say Iran is developing WMD's; of course we also said Iraq already had WMD's as we stormed in to invade them in 2002. Turns out they had weapons of not-enough-destruction-to-win against the overwhelming force of the U.S.A. Neither does Iran, so they will likely strut and flex muscles and brag about their toughness rather than start a shooting war. Will that be good enough for us...or are we at a spot where we need another war to infuse the U.S. economy with another shot of cash? The drone incident ups the ante.

The time to war with the Ayatollah of Rock and Rolla was when he and his cohorts kidnapped and imprisoned American diplomats and others for 444 days back in 1979 under the Jimmeh Cawwtah administration. For those too young to remember, that one ended the very day Carter left and President Reagan took office, knowing that glowing-in-the-dark was not far behind.

I'm not so sure about now. If Iran tries to block off the Strait, should we let them, then sell our own U.S. oil into the world market at the new higher prices, thus supplanting the Middle East as the first string petroleum exporter—or should we blow the hell out of them?

Bruce Bateman

Tanapag, Saipan

SCIENCE

From Page 10

springs of marine life, protectors of coastlines and anchors of a vast, global food chain. And they are on the front lines as our

Coral scientists were among the first to warn us that global warming was radically harming our seas and to call for curbing our ravenous appetite for fossil fuels.

But it seems we weren't listening. Now, they are once again in the vanguard, plotting out revolutionary measures—many of which could backfire in unexpected ways—to save our reefs, our planet and ourselves.

s U.S.-China friction escalates, the rhetoric in Wash- Training Program, an important channel for Chinese students, especially STEM majors, wishing to stay and work in the U.S. Last year, Chinese nationals studying robotics, aviation and other high-tech subjects were issued one-year visas instead of five-year ones. The State Department also increased its scrutiny of visa applicants, causing major delays and uncertainty for tourists, students and for U.S. companies wishing to hire Chinese employees.

> All of these actions hark back to a shameful chapter in American history, especially the dark ages of the Chinese Exclusion Act, signed into law in 1882. The exclusion act not only blocked immigration from China, it institutionalized discrimination against Chinese in this country and reflected an attempt to deny what Chinese immigrants had already contributed to the United States. It wasn't repealed until 1943. Its current echoes in racially charged and irresponsible rhetoric threaten our values, and our economic interests.

> For starters, limiting visas for Chinese students, scientists, business leaders and tourists harms what amounts to a valuable U.S. "export"—exceptional knowledge, research programming and global economic interconnectedness. Students from abroad, a large number from China, spent an estimated \$39 billion in the United States during the 2017-18 academic year. In the tourism sector, Chinese are estimated to spend on average \$6,700 per person when they visit here, much higher than other international visitors. Last year, however, with China-U.S. hostilities rising, Chinese tourism fell 5.7%, the first decline in 15 years.

> The impact of anti-Chinese policies and sentiment will be even greater, long term, on American technology. According to the National Science Foundation, foreign citizens account for more than half of the nation's graduate students in engineering. Chinese citizens in particular represent one quarter of all those doing advanced artificial intelligence research globally. More than half this group was educated in the U.S., and some of them have gone on to start up companies and create American jobs. If they aren't encouraged to stay on and work here, it will represent a huge loss of U.S.-nurtured talent.

> Alienating an entire generation of Chinese scholars, researchers and professionals—and assuming that U.S.-China tensions are inevitable—simply isn't necessary in order to respond to intellectual property theft and other illegal behavior connected to entities and individuals in the People's Republic. Instead,

By DOMINIC NG

Los Angeles Times

Dominic Ng is the chairman and chief executive of East West Bank.



policymakers can clearly define and minimize the areas of our economy to be walled off from foreign participation. At the same time, they must reject recriminations based on race or culture. The guiding concept should be, in former Defense Secretary Robert Gates' phrase, "small yard, high fences."

Washington needs to spell out specific technologies and research areas directly relevant to U.S. national security (small yards) and draw appropriate strategic boundaries (high fences). A narrow focus on, say, quantum encryption or hypersonic propulsion may be justified, but not blocking Chinese participation in all U.S. artificial intelligence or biotechnology research and development.

So far, the Trump administration has been building incoherent fences around entire swaths of the economy and higher education. Fencing in a smaller yard would help regulators to more effectively screen for harmful activity within those bounds, while limiting the collateral damage to neighboring sectors.

In areas that aren't fenced off, the government should aggressively adopt and enforce laws and regulations meant to counter undesirable behavior. For example, better, more targeted background checks could keep researchers with unwanted affiliations out of U.S. universities. Companies known to steal intellectual property could be denied access to our markets. Offenses should be heavily penalized, but the grounds for investigation into espionage must be nondiscriminatory and based on facts, not on race.

The United States must be a leader for what is right. We can welcome greater foreign participation in our economy and still protect American intellectual property. We can defend our national security and still celebrate a multicultural society. We are smarter and stronger when we honor what defines us as a nation: openness, diversity and intellectual curiosity.

Trump did the right thing—gasp!—in aborting potentially lethal attacks on Iran

'ell, here's something new-President Donald Trump, in reversing his own decision to attack multiple targets in Iran in retaliation for the downing of a U.S. drone, exhibited a surprising level of restraint late Thursday, and for the right reasons.

That is, of course, if his tweets can be believed. That's not a given, but Trump's comments confirmed earlier news reports out of Washington surrounding the decision to scrap the attack.

Most significantly, Trump tweeted Friday morning that he had approved the attacks but then reversed himself after being told they likely would likely kill about 150 people.

That's the exactly correct reason not to attack. Killing people in retaliation for the downing of an unmanned drone would have been obscenely disproportionate.

Especially because it remains unclear who was at fault. Did the U.S. fly a drone into Iranian air space, or did Iran shoot down another nation's asset in international air space?

The sad part here is neither government has earned the benefit of the doubt for its version of events.

It's also worth noting that, at least according to the New York Times, planes were already in the air and the mission was underway when Trump asked about the death toll. So Trump didn't think to ask that question before he approved the attacks? And that detail wasn't included in recommendations from his military advisors (or maybe Trump didn't bother to read the details)?

By SCOTT MARTELLE Los Angeles Times



Regardless, it's commendable that once Trump did ask the question and received the answer, he decided the retaliation would have been out of proportion to the downing of the drone, and called it off.

Of course, this isn't over. It wouldn't be surprising to see some sort of lesser attack in the coming hours or days, perhaps an advance warning sent through a third country—Russia?—that U.S. missiles would strike specific antiaircraft and radar installations. giving Iran time to evacuate.

A better course here would be to find a way for both sides to back off, perhaps with an international show of force in the Straits of Hormuz to signal global condemnation of an increasingly aggressive Iran.

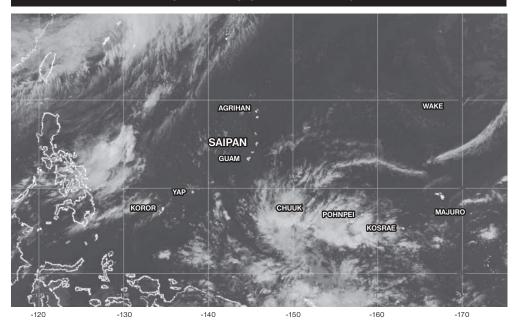
But that would require some international leadership. And we have the wrong president for that.

12 MONDAY, JUNE 24, 2019 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN **TODAY TUESDAY** WEDNESDAY **THURSDAY FRIDAY** Partly cloudy with isolated Partly cloudy with isolated showers. east winds 10 to Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and Partly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms. thunderstorms. 79° 79° 79° 79° 79° 900

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:22 AM, SUNDAY, JUNE 23, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180

A dry trade-wind pattern is in place across the Marianas and looks to continue for the next few days. Models are remaining fairly consistent with moving a weak disturbance through to the south of Guam toward the end of the week. Increasing cloudiness, showers and isolated thunderstorms are possible over the region beginning Thursday, and could extend through Sunday. Maintained isolated showers for now, however, scattered showers are a possibility Thursday and Friday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESI	▲ ♥°F	
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	88° / 80°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	88° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°

Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°
AROUND TH	E GLOBE	A ▼°F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	57° / 46°
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	99° / 73°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	88° / 82°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	89° / 76°
London	Mostly Cloudy	77° / 64°
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	76° / 63°
Manila	Thunderstorms	93° / 82°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	61° / 41°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	88° / 80°
New York	Thunderstorms	84° / 71°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	84° / 70°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	86° / 70°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	77° / 64°
Rome	Sunny	93° / 70°
Salem	Thunderstorms	93° / 73°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	68° / 53°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	84° / 66°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	81° / 66°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	92° / 74°



Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

■ Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone ■*11 on any IT&E cellular phone

■ Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIP	AN HARBOR TO	DAY FEET
1:02 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.81
7:14 AM	LOW TIDE	1.08
11:26 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.43
6:32 PM	LOW TIDE	0.27

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:48 AM	6:50 PM
Tuesday	5:48 AM	6:50 PM
Wednesday	5:48 AM	6:50 PM
Thursday	5:49 AM	6:50 PM
Friday	5:49 AM	6:50 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	11:19 AM	11:59 PM
Tuesday	-	12:06 AM	-
Wednesday	12:36 AM	12:53 PM	-
Thursday	1:13 AM	1:41 PM	-
Friday	1:51 AM	2:31 PM	-

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UO43		8:25am	2, 3, 4, 3, 0, 7 via iCiv	UO42		1:20am+1	7
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LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN 1	O ROTA			1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
FLIGHT # 1301 1302 1303	DEPARTURE 7:30AM 11:30AM 4:00PM	ARRIVAL 8:00AM 12:00PM 4:30PM	FREQUENCY Daily Daily Daily	1204 1205 1206 1207 1208	10:00AM 11:00AM 12:00PM 1:00PM 2:00PM	10:15AM 11:15AM 12:15PM 1:15PM 2:15PM	Daily Daily Daily Daily Daily
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30th Pacific Islands Environmental Conference kicks off

HAGATNA. Guam—The Pacific Islands Environmental Conference, a bi-annual conference that rotates between the CNMI, American Samoa, and Guam will be held in Guam this year and is scheduled to kick off tomorrow, June 25, at the Hyatt Regency Guam, beginning at 8am.

A press conference to detail the agenda and activities planned for the five-day event is scheduled for that same day, June 25, at the Hyatt Regency Guam, in the arcade room at 11am.

All sponsors, speakers, and Pacific island leaders will also attend. The success of the event is already unprecedented, with now nearly 500 confirmed attendees—250 more than anticipated.

The theme of this year's "Greening conference is Growth in the Pacific."

The conference agenda will focus on the urgency of building a Green Economy due to the global climate change crisis.

This bi-annual conference comes nearly six years after the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development or Rio +20, where nations gathered, including the small island developing states, to reaffirm their commitment to safeguarding the environment for future generations.

"The islands in the Pacific are on the very frontlines of this global crisis and are being forced to reassess their waste reduction strategy, food, water, and energy security, and to take steps to mitigate and adapt to climate change," said Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero.

Lt. Gov. Joshua Tenorio underscored this point and added, "Today, locally and globally, we face a daily wave of difficult news: climate change speeding up, typhoons back to back, fires blazing up and down mountainsides, and other natural disasters, along with the growing challenges surrounding managing waste through our landfills. In 2019, it is clear that our stewardship of our islands is not just a responsibility for the future; we have to act immediately to protect our generation."

The conference is expected draw hundreds of delegates from environmental protection professions, including managers, field representatives, environmental governance officials, international and national leaders. Along with diplomats, an assistant secretary of the U.S. Air Force, concerned business owners, a visionary scientist, indigenous activist, and nonprofit groups from around the world will be participating in the conference.

Throughout this six-day event, the Solid Waste Association of North America will deliver pre-conference workshops and training. Professional certifications will also be available on managing composting systems, managing integrated solid waste management systems, radon measurements, and zero waste systems and principles. Information exchange will be held on building green infrastructure as it relates to storm-water, wastewater, drinking water, and non-point source systems.

A Coral Reef Symposium

will also be held on "Coral Reef Conservation and Resilience Strategies" in concert with the recently established Coral Reef Task Force. The Task Force was created by the Guam governor in Executive Order 2019-09.

The conference is organized by a multisectoral partnership composed of the Office of the Governor, the Guam Environmental Protection Agency, and Guam Bureau of Statistics and Plans, with funding from the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, The Nature Conservancy, and members of the Guam business community. (PR)

Scheduled power outages

There will be scheduled power interruptions on the following dates, times and locations:

■ Monday, June 24, 2019 -8:30am to 1:30pm

- Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit
- ☐ Village location: Dandan ☐ Area(s) affected: Isley
- Field area near the Sky Chef and ARFF facilities
- Water well(s) affected: Isley Wells, IF: 4, 7, 8, 105
- ☐ Water service maybe affected based on tank level for the following areas: Tottotville. Portions of Adobo Drive in Koblerville, Airport Road, Lower Dandan, As Lito Road and Along Chalan Martinez Road (Shell Dandan to ABCD Market)
- Wastewater lift station(s) affected: None
- □ Pole replacement(s): 5

■ Wednesday, June 26, 2019 - 8:30am to 1:30pm

- ☐ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit
- ☐ Village location: Dandan
- ☐ Area(s) affected: Isley Field area near the Sky Chef and ARFF facilities
- Water well(s) affected: Isley Wells, IF: 4, 7, 8, 105
- ☐ Water service maybe affected based on tank level for the following areas: Tottotville. Portions of Adobo Drive in Koblerville, Airport Road, Lower Dandan, As Lito Road and Along Chalan Martinez Road (Shell Dandan to ABCD Market)
- Wastewater lift station(s) affected: None
- □ Pole replacement(s): 5

■ Friday, June 28, 2019 -8:30am to 1:30pm

- Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit
- Village location: Dandan
- ☐ Area(s) affected: Sky Chef, **ARFF**
- ☐ Water well(s) affected: Isley Wells, IF: 4, 7, 8, 105
- ☐ Water service maybe affected based on tank level for the following areas: Tottotville, Portions of Adobo Drive in Koblerville, Airport Road, Lower Dandan, As Lito Road and Along Chalan Martinez Road (Shell Dandan to ABCD Market)
- Wastewater lift station(s) affected: None
- ☐ Pole replacement(s): 4

The purpose of the power interruptions is to de-energize utility lines and allow power line workers from Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to safely replace 98 wooden poles with concrete poles at Isley Field in Dandan village.

The power interruption is part of CUC and Federal Emergency Management Agency's Water System Mitigation program aimed at hardening and strengthening the power distribution system that supplies power to the water wells located at Isley Field in Dandan village.

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the working area.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/ CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation./). (PR)

Hofschneider Engineering rallies behind trades education



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hofschneider Engineering CEO Bill Hofschneider, along with other staff, hands over a donation to the Northern Marianas Trades Institute's 4th Annual Gala.

Hofschneider Engineering reaffirmed its commitment to trades education with a donation to the Northern Marianas Trades Institute's 4th Annual Gala.

With Hofschneider Engineering's donation, NMTI is \$500 closer to beating last year's fundraising earnings of \$32,000k.

Hofschneider Engineering CEO Bill Hofschneider, along with other professional staff, handed over the donation to

Have you ever wondered how the Super Typhoon Yutu affected the CNMI's young children?

Second-graders at Grace Christian Academy have written and illustrated a book, The Strongest Wind, about their Yutu experience as a Language Arts project.

The 17-page children's book narrates the true-to-life experience of two children a 7- and 8-year-old—sharing what they saw, heard, felt during the earth's strongest storm that hit Saipan in October 2018.

"We want to remember these moments and keep it for future generations to understand," said Miriam Dilse, second grade homeroom teacher. "Another thing to remember is that a great calamity could bring out the best in people. Children have seen the community and people from

officials of the institute.

NMTI is currently transitioning toward becoming a public entity.

According to NMTI officials, this 4th gala may be the last fundraiser under the "trades" institute as it anticipates the full transition over to a "technical" institute to be completed by the end of the year. The annual dinner fundraiser will also transition and rest on the shoulders of a fundraising arm somewhat similar to that of the Northern Marianas College Foundation.

Frank Rabauliman, NMTI's acting CEO, said, "We are humbled by the support we receive from our community in all endeavors. We are truly lucky to have great business leaders backing our institute."

Ross Manglona, NMTI's director of continuing education, said, "The event is sure to be as good or better than the year before. It's that time of the year where we recognize the impact trades education has on our community. Most of all, it's a time to say thank you to all of you for pushing us to greater heights.

NMTI's 4th Annual Gala is scheduled for July 26, 2019, and will be held at the Hyatt Regency Saipan. Gala tickets are priced at \$100 per person and can be bought by calling Manglona at (670) 322-6684 or emailing ross. nmticnmi@gmail.com. (PR)

GCA students write book about Yutu



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Second-graders at Grace Christian Academy have written and illustrated a book, The Strongest Wind, about their Super Typhoon Yutu experience as a Language Arts project.

various organizations come island. Their act of heroism stronger than the strongest

together to help rebuild our moved us and it is definitely

storm on earth." (PR)

CONGRATULATIONS!



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO Arron Cushing, a resident of Saipan, has earned placement on the Gonzaga University dean's list for spring semester 2019. Students must earn a 3.50 to 3.84 grade-point average to be listed.

14 MONDAY, JUNE 24, 2019 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Business

Explosions, fire rock US oil refinery; gas prices could rise

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—
Explosions and a blaze at the

Explosions and a blaze at the largest oil refinery on the East Coast sent a fireball into the sky and shook homes before dawn Friday, though authorities reported only a few minor injuries and said the air was safe to breathe.

The fire at the Philadelphia Energy Solutions Refining Complex was deemed contained and controlled but continued to burn late Friday afternoon, said Craig Murphy, deputy fire commissioner.

The fire broke out around 4 a.m., PES spokeswoman Cherice Corley said. Video showed the enormous orange blast bursting into the sky about 20 minutes later.

Five refinery workers were treated for minor injuries, and nearby residents were asked to stay inside.

The cause of the fire was still unclear. Three explosions, felt miles away, went off as the fire worked its way through the tangle of pipes carrying fuel across the complex, Corley said. It happened at the Girard Point refinery, one of two at the PES complex in southern Philadelphia.

The fire happened at a tank



Flames and smoke emerge from the Philadelphia Energy Solutions Refining Complex in Philadelphia, Friday, June 21, 2019.

containing a mix of butane and propane, Murphy said. The blaze was still being fed by a main, he said, but it was unsafe for workers to access the valve to shut it off. If firefighters extinguished the blaze, the gases would continue to bleed into the atmosphere, he said.

"It is safer if it burns itself out; otherwise the product would be looking for an ignition source," he said. "Right now, it is contained and controlled."

Air samples taken both downwind and upwind from the refinery have been tested,

and no threat to public safety has been found, the city's health department said in a statement.

The 150-year-old oil refining complex processes 335,000 barrels of crude oil daily, PES says. The refinery turns the crude into gasoline, jet fuel, propane, home heating oil and other products.

It was the second blaze at the refinery this month, following a June 10 fire in which no injuries were reported.

Gasoline prices in the Northeast could rise over the next few weeks as a result of the explosion, but an increase isn't likely to last long, said Claudio Galimberti, a refining analyst at S&P Global Platts.

Thick black smoke billowed across the city after the fire started.

Jonathan Triboletti, of Hammonton, New Jersey, saw that smoke and the explosion when he and his mother were driving to the nearby Philadelphia Airport.

"I noticed the sky light up orange ahead of us for maybe 5 or 6 seconds," he said.

Triboletti said he even felt the heat in the car.

"It kind of made our skin crawl a little bit because we

didn't know what was going on. It was something you normally see in a movie theater," he said.

It's unknown whether the explosions will cause any financial strain the oil markets.

"This is obviously not a good thing to happen in a jittery market, but U.S. refined product demand has been relatively weak," said Jim Burkhard, vice president for oil markets at IHS Markit. "So this is a disruption, but it's probably not going to cause major problems in a market that is generally well supplied."

California to illegal pot shops: We're coming for you

LOS ANGELES (AP)—California is planning to intensify its enforcement against the state's thriving illegal marijuana market, including launching an ad campaign Friday that urges consumers to seek out licensed shops with safe products.

The state has been under pressure by the legal industry to do more to stop the illicit pot economy, which in Los Angeles and other cities often operates in plain sight. According to some estimates, up to 80 percent of sales in the state remain under the table, snatching profits from legal storefronts.

"We are going to start having a more aggressive enforcement stance to come after the illegal market," Lori Ajax, the state's top cannabis regulator, said at an industry forum.

The state announced it was kicking off a public information campaign—Get #weedwise—that encourages consumers to verify that their purchases are tested and legal.

Ads will be hitting social media sites and billboards promoting a state website where shoppers can quickly check if a shop is licensed—CApotcheck.com.

The campaign makes a simple argument: You don't know what you're getting if you buy illegal products.

One ad says, "What's in your weed shouldn't be a mystery. Shop licensed cannabis retailers only."

The campaign "will directly impact consumer safety by clarifying that only cannabis purchased from licensed retailers has met the state's safety standards," Ajax said in an earlier statement.

The ads are also intended to telegraph a warning to illicit shops and underground growers: Get licensed to operate in the legal market, or shut down.

The need for tougher enforcement came up repeatedly at the forum, which was organized by the United Cannabis Business Association, a trade group.

State Assemblyman Tom Lackey, a Republican from Palmdale, called the problem the "biggest failure right now in the system."

"Regulations are merely suggestions without an enforcement arm," he said, adding that the state and local governments are failing to work together.

Nicole Elliott, senior adviser on cannabis to Gov. Gavin Newsom, said state funds for enforcement would nearly double in the fiscal year than begins July 1, to \$113 million.

California kicked off broad legal sales Jan. 1, 2018. But the illegal market has continued a bustling business, in part because consumers can avoid steep tax rates by buying in unlicensed dispensaries.

But there's a trade-off for saving a buck. Illegal products have not met strict state testing standards and could be tainted by mold, pesticides, heavy metals—even human waste.

"Do you know what's hiding in your counterfeit edibles?" one ad asks.

Agency spokesman Alex Traverso said the ads are part of a three-pronged campaign intended to eventually corral illegal sales—the others are enforcement, including shutting down illegal shops and farms, and quickly licensing businesses that want to enter the legal economy.

The state is spending an initial \$1.7 million on the campaign and hopes to "get it in front of as many eyeballs as possible," Traverso said.

NEW YORK (AP)—All 18 of the nation's largest and most complex banks are strong enough to withstand a severe economic downturn and would be able to stay in busi-

ness without collapsing, the

Federal Reserve said Friday.

The results are from the first round of the central bank's annual stress tests, which showed the 18 big banks have benefited from an improving economy and have balance sheets strong enough to withstand a deep global downturn and the U.S.

unemployment rate rising to

double digits.

The Fed adjusts its stress tests each year, depending on the economic climate. In this year's most dire scenario, known as the severely adverse scenario, the Federal Reserve tested for a hypothetical deep global recession, with the U.S. unemployment rate jumping

to 10% from its current level of 4% and the stock market falling 50% from its peak.

Fed says largest banks would survive crisis, in latest tests

The Fed also tested how well the nation's largest banks would handle a sharp drop in commercial real estate prices, as well as heightened stress in the corporate debt markets. Several economists and bank executives have cited the substantial increase in loans made to distressed companies, known as leveraged lending, as an area of concern for the financial system.

Capital One, which has a large commercial banking business, was the most negatively impacted by the Fed's scenario but still remained more than well capitalized under the Fed's qualifications. In a sign of how much better banks are protected compared to a decade ago, all 18 banks would have more capital on their balance sheets under the

Fed's dire scenario than they had before the 2008 financial crisis.

It was the eighth annual check-up for the banks, mandated by Congress after the financial crisis that triggered the Great Recession. The Federal Reserve tested a smaller number of banks this year, instead of the 35 that were tested in previous years. Congress passed a law in 2018 that rolled back some of the regulations put into place under the Dodd-Frank Act, one of them being the need to stress test every bank over a certain threshold of assets.

The Fed next week will release the second part of its tests, which are more closely watched. The Fed will determine whether individual big banks will be allowed to boost their dividends and buy back shares.

MONDAY, JUNE 24, 2019 **15** SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Nation

'We all feel it': Bikers mourn 7 of their own killed on road

(AP)—Investigators pleaded Saturday for members of the public to come forward with information that could help them determine why a pickup truck hauling a trailer collided with a group of 10 motorcycles on a rural highway, killing seven bikers.

The crash in remote northern New Hampshire involved members of Marine JarHeads, a motorcycle club that includes Marines and their spouses, authorities said. The tragedy sent shockwaves through New England's communities of motorcyclists and military veterans, which often overlap.

"When something like this happens, we all feel it," said Cat Wilson, who organizes a motorcycle charity event in Massachusetts and is a friend of some of the crash victims. "There is no tighter community than our biker community."

Authorities identified the pickup driver as Volodoymyr Zhukovskyy, 23, an employee of a Springfield, Massachusetts, company called Westfield Transport.

Zhukovskyy survived the accident, did not need to be hospitalized and has not been charged, authorities said, but they didn't address details on his whereabouts. A phone listing for him couldn't be found.

Dartanyan Gasanov, the owner of Westfield Transport, told The Boston Globe that he planned to talk to investigators Monday and has been unable to reach Zhukovskyy, who has not been answering phone calls.

The National Transportation Safety Board is among the agencies investigating. Authorities asked for the public's help in the form of videos, photos or other information about the accident or the vehicles involved

"This is one of the worst tragic incidents that we have investigated here in the state," New Hampshire State Police Col. Chris Wagner said at a Saturday news conference in nearby Lancaster. "It's going to be a very lengthy

investigation."

A black 2016 Dodge 2500 pickup truck towing a flatbed trailer of the kind used to haul cars collided with the bikers around 6:30 p.m. Friday on U.S. 2, a two-lane highway in Randolph, police said. Randolph is about a two-hour drive north of Concord, the capital, and a three-hour drive from Boston.

Along with the seven dead, state police said, three people were taken to hospitals. Two of them were released Satur-

day. Police did not provide names of the injured or dead but said they could release the names of victims as early as Sunday.

The road reopened Saturday, when skid marks were still visible for several hundred feet on the road, which has mountains and fields full of wildflowers as a backdrop. Nothing was left of the broken motorcycles, but a patch of burned grass and tire marks in the mud remained.

For much the day, resi-

dents and bikers stopped by to pay respects. Some prayed, reminisced about their own close calls or planted American flags.

Bill Brown, a 73-year-old Vietnam veteran and motorcyclist, arrived at the scene near a gentle curve in the road to put down flags, calling the victims "brothers in arms," vowing to keep riding and expressing shock.

"Seven people. C'mon. It's senseless," he said. "Somebody made a mistake, and it turned out to be pretty deadly."

Down the road, over a dozen members of the Marine JarHeads gathered at a motel. Dressed in motorcycle jackets with "JarHeads" written on the back, they hugged one another and wept. Earlier in the day, they prayed with a pastor.

Members of the motorcycle community are already organizing help for the victims' families, Wilson said.

A small memorial was held at a church in nearby Berlin on Saturday evening.



A motorcycle passes as a woman leaves flowers at the scene of a fatal accident on Route 2 in Randolph, N.H., Saturday, June 22, 2019.

ACROSS THE NATION

Police identify US postal worker shot to death in Louisiana SHREVEPORT, La.

(AP)—A coroner's office

has identified the U.S. postal worker shot to death in Louisiana on Saturday morning. A release from the Caddo Parish Coroner's Office says 52-year-old Antonio Williams was shot while making deliveries in a residential area of Shreveport, around 11 a.m. Police in the northern Louisiana city say the man was shot in the upper body multiple times and was taken to a hospital, where he died. Police identified Williams using fingerprint comparison. An autopsy has been ordered. Police were questioning several witnesses, and the Shreveport Times reported that a postal inspector also was investigating. A U.S. Postal Service spokesman did not immediately respond to questions from The Associated Press.

Police: Man dead after police-involved shooting

PHOENIX, Md. (AP)—Police in Maryland say a man is dead after at least one officer fired a gun while responding to an emergency call. Baltimore County Police said on Twitter that authorities received a call about a man with a weapon Saturday morning. Police said officers

responding to the call saw a suspect come out of the front door of a house with a gun. Police say at least one officer fired a service weapon, but officials didn't elaborate on whether that shot hit the suspect. Police add the man retreated back into the house where he was later found dead. They say a handgun was found beside him. Police did not immediately identify the man or the officers involved.

Troopers: 3 dead in plane crash on Alaska's Kenai **Peninsula**

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—Alaska State Troopers say three people were killed when a small plane crashed on land near a bay on the Kenai Peninsula. Troopers spokesman Ken Marsh says the crash occurred Friday night in Little Johnstone Bay, about 30 miles southeast of the community of Seward. Troopers identified the pilot as 63-year-old Kem Sibbitt of Fairbanks. The identities of the two passengers were not immediately released. All three bodies were recovered Saturday. Marsh didn't know the purpose of the flight in the Helio Courier aircraft, but he said it was a private plane. The National Transportation Safety Board will investigate.

cia believes that if her husband had a better understanding of his rights, he would have avoided deportation to Mexico after telling a suburban Chicago police officer during a 2012 traffic stop that he was

"He failed to remain silent," said the U.S. citizen mother of five. "He proceeded and told the truth.

living in the U.S. illegally.

CHICAGO (AP)—Ceci Gar-

The Chicago woman now spends her time teaching others how to avoid her husband's fate, part of a growing national effort since President Donald Trump took office that took on new urgency in recent days. As he kicked off his 2020 campaign, Trump had proclaimed that his administration would launch a new operation in the coming days to deport millions living in the country illegally. On Saturday, he tweeted that he had delayed the plan two weeks in hopes that Democrats and Republicans could work out solutions to "Asylum and Loophole problems at the Southern Border."

From Los Angeles to Atlanta, advocates and attorneys have brought "know-yourrights" workshops to schools, churches, storefronts and consulates, tailoring their efforts on what to do if Immigration and Customs Enforcement shows up at home or on the road. They've role-played interactions, handed out pocket guides, provided hotlines, hosted webinars and offered scripts. The result, advocates argue, is more savvy immigrants who are increasingly refusing to open their doors or provide information, something they hope will blunt any impact of any operation.

"It's more about making sure that people feel like they have some power over what is happening in their lives," said Katarina Ramos, a National Immigrant Justice Center staff attorney. "And that they have some control over what is inherently a very scary situation."

Whether it's the American Civil Liberties Union or a neighborhood nonprofit, the trainings focus on the same

ideas: the right to remain silent; refusing officers entry into a home; not signing anything without legal representation; and asking for paperwork from agents. They are rights attorneys say apply to everyone regardless of citizenship status.

Opening the door to an agent is an invitation that could lead to collateral arrests, so activists suggest talking through a door or a window, something the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights Los Angeles depicts in an animated knowyour-rights video. A booklet by political organization Mijente advises immigrants not to carry identification with country of origin to avoid having evidence that could end up in immigration court. The Chicago-based Resurrection Project tells immigrants to film interactions. If the agent asks to drop the phone, activists tell trainees to comply but not turn off the recorder.

"We don't want things to escalate," said immigration organizer Laura Mendoza. "That's why we constantly, constantly

Activists step up trainings amid Trump deportation threats talk about know your rights."

A glossy blue and white flyer script distributed by the group tells the person to ask for "a judicial warrant signed by a judge" to gain entry into the home and shows a picture of one next to an administrative warrant, which is signed only by ICE.

As concerns rose about Trump's initial announcement, advocates ratcheted up their actions.

The American Business Immigration Coalition hosted a Thursday webinar and told the businesses on the call hotel managers, restaurateurs and dairy farmers-to not immediately turn over employment records in case of a raid. The head of the Immigrants' Assistance Center in the Massachusetts fishing city of New Bedford said she would speak in the coming days about contingency plans for children's care to church congregations and on local Spanish and Portuguese language TV and radio stations. Chicago activists vowed more public demonstrations.

16 MONDAY, JUNE 24, 2019 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Asia

N. Korea leader receives 'excellent' letter from Trump

(AP)—President Donald Trump sent North Korean leader Kim Jong Un an "excellent" letter, the North's state-run news agency reported Sunday, quoting Kim as saying he would "seriously contemplate it."

The White House declined to confirm that Trump had sent a letter to Kim.

It comes as nuclear talks between the U.S. and North Korea broke down after the failed summit between Kim and Trump in February in Vietnam.

The U.S. is demanding that North Korea abandon its nuclear weapons entirely before international sanctions are lifted. North Korea is seeking a step-by-step approach in which moves toward denuclearization are matched by concessions from the U.S., notably a relaxation of the sanctions.

Kim "said with satisfaction that the letter is of excellent content," Pyongyang's



In this undated photo provided on Sunday, June 23, 2019, by the North Korean government, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un reads a letter from U.S. President Donald Trump.

Korean Central News Agency reported.

"Appreciating the political judging faculty and extraordinary courage of President elaborating.

Trump, Kim Jong Un said that he would seriously contemplate the interesting content," the agency said, without South Korea's presidential

office said it sees the exchange of letters between Kim and Trump as a positive development for keeping the momen-

Hong Kong protesters end blockade of police headquarters

HONG KONG (AP)—Protesters in Hong Kong ended their overnight siege of police headquarters peacefully Saturday, disappointed that their demands for the territory's leader to formally withdraw a contentious extradition bill and police to apologize for heavy handed tactics have gone unmet.

By daybreak, police had cleared the streets of barriers set up by protesters to snarl traffic in the Asian financial center, and only a few groups in the mostly youthful crowd remained. Many slept outside the legislature.

Traffic was again smooth on a major thoroughfare through government's central complex as the protest movement regrouped to consider next moves.

Police said nine female and four male staffers were hospitalized "with considerable delay" during the blockade. The police statement did not say whether they were injured in clashes or had otherwise become unwell.

Around police headquarters, masked and helmeted protesters covered surveillance cameras with masking tape and lashed barriers together with nylon cable ties. They threw eggs at the building and drew graffiti on the walls. Protesters also "splashed oil" and targeted police officers' eves with laser pointers, according to the police.

Hong Kong has been rocked by major protests for the past two weeks over legislative proposals that many view as eroding the territory's judicial independence and, more broadly, as a sign of Chinese government efforts to chip away at the city's freedoms.

Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam indefinitely suspended debate on the bills a week ago, making it likely they would die. But protesters are demanding that she formally withdraw the proposed changes to the extradition laws, which would expand the scope of criminal suspect transfers to include mainland China, Taiwan and Macau. Some also want Lam to resign.

Legal and business groups in Hong Kong oppose the legislation, saying critics of China's ruling Communist Party would be at risk of torture and unfair trials on the mainland and that it further erode the "one country, two systems" framework under which Hong Kong has been governed since the handover from British rule in 1997.

The peaceful ending to Friday's protests drew a sigh of relief in the city of 7.4 million people, after police unleashed tear gas and rubber bullets last week in violent clashes that left dozens injured on both sides. Police were previously criticized for their use of force but this time waited out the protesters. Police did issue a statement at 4:50 a.m. condemning them for blocking key streets and seriously disrupting work at police

headquarters.

"Police have shown the greatest tolerance to the protesters who assembled outside PHQ, but their means of expressing views have become illegal, irrational and unreasonable," the statement said in part.

Activist Joshua Wong called on police to answer demands over heavy handed tactics used during a mass protest on June 12, including the firing of 150 rounds of tear gas, rubber bullets and beanbag rounds, and the beating of unarmed protesters by police with truncheons.

"We ... urge police to apologize to the people" over the use of such tactics and their labeling of the gathering as a riot, Wong said.

The auxiliary bishop of Hong Kong's Catholic Diocese, the Rev. Joseph Ha, appealed to the protesters to avoid violence. He warned that public opinion could turn against them.

"You have already been on the roads for a long time," he said on Cable TV Hong Kong. "You've already done a lot. You have already expressed very clearly your hopes and wishes. But I am really worried about your personal safety. ... Please, absolutely, do not use violence."

Since the confrontations June 12, police have eased their approach, hoping to avoid a replay of 2014 protests, when officers unleashed

87 rounds of tear gas at protesters in the same location as the current protests. When the smoke from that response cleared, bigger crowds returned, angrier than before, and didn't leave for nearly three months.

The Communist Party under Chinese President Xi Jinping has been pushing ever more aggressively to quiet independent voices in Hong Kong. Beijing has squelched all reporting on the protests in mainland media and accused foreign forces of stirring up disturbances in Hong Kong.

Opposition to the legislation has come from a broad range of civic, human rights, legal profession and commercial organizations. Politicians in the U.S., the U.K. and elsewhere have also weighed in, underscoring Hong Kong's status as a global financial center with strong legal guarantees—despite its ultimate control by China's authoritarian leaders.

Despite that, Beijing has not come out strongly in favor of ramming through the legislation, perhaps mindful of threats to Hong Kong's special economic status amid a trade war with the U.S.

Under the 1992 U.S.-Hong Kong Policy Act, Beijing needs to abide by its "one country, two systems" promises to respect the territory's legal autonomy for 50 years as promised under the agreement signed with Britain for the 1997 handover.

tum for dialogue alive.

Trump's letter also came days after Kim's summit with visiting Chinese President Xi Jinping, which experts say underscored China's emergence as a major player in the diplomatic push to resolve the nuclear standoff with the North.

North Korean state media said Kim and Xi discussed the political situation surrounding the Korean Peninsula and reached unspecified consensus on important issues.

Xi is expected to meet with Trump next week in Japan during the G-20 summit. Analysts say he could pass him a message from Kim about the nuclear negotiations.

Kim said during his New Year's speech said he would seek a "new way" if the United States persists with sanctions and pressure against North Korea. After the collapse of his meeting with Trump in Hanoi, Kim said Washington has until the end of the year to offer mutually acceptable terms for a deal to salvage the negotiations.

Following a provocative run in weapons tests, Kim initiated negotiations with Seoul and Washington in 2018, which led to three summits with South

Korea's president and his first with Trump in Singapore on June 12 last year, when they issued a vague statement on a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula without describing how and when it would occur. The lack of substance and fruitless working-level talks set up the breakdown of Kim's second meeting with Trump, which the Americans blamed on excessive North Korean demands for sanctions relief in exchange for only a partial surrender of its nuclear capabilities.

Nuclear negotiations have been at a standstill since then, but on the eve of the anniversary of the Singapore summit, Trump told U.S. reporters he received a "beautiful" letter from Kim, without revealing what was written. In an interview with TIME magazine last week. Trump said he also received a "birthday letter" from Kim that was delivered by hand a day before.

Trump and Kim also exchanged letters in 2018 after their first summit. White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said at the time that the letters addressed their commitment to work toward North Korea's "complete denuclearization."

ASIAN BRIEFS

Ex-Filipino diplomat who sued Xi barred entry to Hong Kong MANILA, **Philippines**

(AP)—A former Philippine foreign secretary who accused in an international court Chinese President Xi Jinping of crimes against humanity said he was barred from entering Hong Kong on Friday and held at the airport for hours. Former Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario told The Associated Press by telephone that he flew to Hong Kong for a business meeting but was blocked by immigration officers from entering. Del Rosario said he was held at an airport immigration lounge for about six hours before being told that he was denied entry without any explanation and put on a Cathay Pacific flight back to Manila. A Hong Kong-based Filipino consular officer assisted him at the airport, he said. "It's clearly harassment," 79-year-old del Rosario said from the plane before taking off. He was met in Manila by a throng of journalists and TV cameras. Del Rosario said his being held in Hong Kong was a violation of the Vienna Convention. It's an international treaty

that specifies the privileges of diplomats to carry out their work without fear of coercion by a host country. Immigration personnel cited an unspecified case as the reason for denying entry, del Rosario said.

ASEAN leaders call for restraint amid sea row, **US-China rift**

BANGKOK (AP)—Southeast Asian leaders have pressed their call for self-restraint in the disputed South China Sea after a new incident and renewed their alarm over the U.S.-China trade war with one warning it may spiral out of control. The long-raging territorial conflicts and the protracted dispute between the two global economic powerhouses are high on the agenda of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations leaders meeting Sunday in an annual summit in the Thai capital of Bangkok. Facing predicaments such as the Rohingya refugee crisis in Myanmar, the leaders took the stage and clasped their hands together in a trademark ASE-AN handshake to project unity. The 10-nation bloc lumps together an absolute monarchy and constitutional monarchies, along with socialist republics and fledgling democracies.

MONDAY, JUNE 24, 2019 **17** SAIPAN TRIBUNE

World

Mauritania votes as 1st peaceful transfer of power expected

NOUAKCHOTT, Mauritania (AP)-Mauritanians on Saturday went to the polls as the outgoing president's preferred successor faced five opposition candidates in this West African nation threatened by Islamic extremism. It was expected to be the country's first peaceful transfer of power.

One candidate of sub-Saharan African descent wants to improve race relations in a country where activists estimate tens of thousands of people still live in slavery despite the practice being banned by the government for decades.

Amnesty International has called on the next president to end rampant human rights abuses in this coastal Sahara Desert nation of 4.5 million people.

"Anyone who dares to stand up against slavery, discrimination and other human rights violations and abuses is at risk of arbitrary arrest, unlawful detention and even torture," said Kine Fatim Diop, a West Africa campaigner for the rights organization.

Mauritania has suffered five coups since independence from France in 1960 and has been led by military rulers for much of that time. President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz was head of the presidential guard when he seized power



in a 2008 coup. He said he did so to prevent a return to repressive military rule.

He won a landslide election the following year in what opponents called a fraudulent "electoral coup." Most opposition parties then boycotted the 2014 election in which Aziz won 82 percent of the vote according to official results.

The president is barred by the constitution from seeking another term. In respecting term limits instead of seeking to change the constitution he contrasts with several leaders elsewhere in Africa in recent years.

His successor of choice is

Minister: 8 tourism deaths in Dominican Republic not unusual

alcohol or misused pesticides. The reported cases included at least two deaths from 2018.

"The longer they keep everybody in suspense, the worst it's going to be for the Dominican Republic, especially when they're so dependent on tourism. Because the longer this goes on unexplained, the longer people are going to be leery of going there," Adalja said.

García said the number of

former Defense Minister Mohamed Ould El Ghazouani, a retired general who served as chief of staff of Mauritania's armed forces.

Ghazouani was chosen by the ruling majority as a presidential candidate after his retirement. He has campaigned on his security credentials and the outgoing president's record on fighting Islamic extremists.

'Mauritania has to choose between Mohamed Ould El Ghazouani-who wants to strive toward security, development and progress—or vote for a return to insecurity, bad management and corruption where there is hate, racism and destruction of national unity," the outgoing president said at a press conference marking the end of campaigning.

After casting his vote, the president urged citizens to stay away from divisive speech and violence.

This moderate Islamic republic borders Mali, where jihadist rule forced tens of Ruling party presidential candidate and former Defense Minister Mohamed Ould El Ghazouani casts his ballot in Nouakchott, Mauritania, Saturday June 22, 2019.

thousands to flee the country's north to Mauritania in 2012. While the security situation has deteriorated in Mali even after the extremists were ousted from control, Mauritania has not seen the spillover in violence experienced by Mali's other neighbors Niger and Burkina Faso.

Mauritania is a member of the G5 Sahel regional counterterrorism force, which was established in 2017 but has been plagued by funding problems.

The opposition candidates in this election include antislavery activist Biram Dah Abeid, who was elected to Parliament in September from his prison cell, where he was held on charges his supporters called politically motivated. He was released late last year after serving four months.

Mauritania was the last country to abolish slavery, doing so in 1981, but did not criminalize it until 2007. Late last year the United States ended trade benefits with Mauritania, saying the country is not making sufficient progress toward combating forced labor, including slavery.

The Mauritanian government, however, denies that slavery is widespread.

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP)— The deaths of eight American tourists in the Dominican Republic this year are not part of a mysterious wave of fatalities but a medically and statistically normal phenomenon that has been lumped together by the U.S. media, the island's tourism minister said Friday.

Autopsies show the tourists died of natural causes, Tourism Minister Francisco Javier García told reporters. He said five of the autopsies are complete, and three are undergoing further toxicological analysis with the help from the FBI because of the circumstances of the deaths.

With some 3.2 million U.S. tourists visiting the Dominican Republic last year, he said, it's not unusual for eight people to die while on vacation over any six-month period. Dominican officials say they are confident the three deaths still under investigation were also from natural causes.

'We want the truth to prevail," García said. "There is nothing to hide here."

The first deaths to make headlines, and still the most mysterious, were those of a couple who seemingly died at the same time in the same

hotel room. The bodies of Edward Nathaniel Holmes, 63, and Cynthia Ann Day, 49, were found May 30 in their room at the Grand Bahia Principe La Romana hotel. Several medications were found in the room, including an anti-inflammatory drug, an opioid and blood-pressure medicine, García said.

Autopsies found pulmonary edema, an accumulation of fluid in the lungs frequently caused by heart disease.

Soon after the couple's death, family members appeared in U.S. media reports questioning the death of Miranda Schaup-Werner, 41, of Allentown, Pennsylvania, who died May 25 at the Luxury Bahia Principe Bouganville hotel. A family spokesman told reporters that she collapsed after getting a drink from the minibar.

An autopsy found that she died of a heart attack, García said.

After the reporting on Schaup-Werner, more coverage followed, with relatives of people who died in the Dominican Republic telling local reporters across the U.S. that they were worried about their loved ones being victims of a strange chain of unexplained deaths, possibly caused by adulterated

The Dominican government has been criticized for not being more forthcoming about the details of the death investigations.

They "probably have some indication of what it could be or what it might not be," said Dr. Amesh Adalja, an infectious diseases and critical care doctor at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security. But officials have been "very opaque" about their findings.

U.S. tourist deaths in the Dominican Republic dropped 56 percent from 2016 to 2018, although he did not provide further numbers or details. The U.S. State Department also discounted the idea of a surge of tourist deaths, saying the agency had not seen an uptick in the number of U.S. citizen who died there.

Iraq boosts security measures at base where US trainers stay

BAGHDAD (AP)—Security measures were increased at one of Iraq's largest air bases that houses American trainers following an attack last week, a top Iraqi air force commander said Saturday. The U.S. military said operations at the base were going on as usual and there were currently no plans to evacuate personnel.

The stepped-up Iraqi security measures at Balad air base, just north of the capital, Baghdad come amid sharply rising tensions in the Middle East between the United States and Iran.

The current regional crisis is rooted in the U.S. withdrawal last year from the 2015 nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers. Washington subsequently reimposed sanctions on Iran, sending its economy into freefall and cutting deeply into its oil exports.

Gen. Falah Fares told The Associated Press by telephone that the measures include a night-time curfew, boosting security inside and near the base as well as surveillance of nearby areas. He said these measures are being carried out in coordination with the U.S.

"All unnecessary movements have been reduced," Fares said, adding that the curfew now lasts from sunset until sunrise. He said the change was made after Balad air base, home to a squadron of Iraqi F-16 fighter jets was hit with three mortar shells last week without inflicting casualties. The curfew had previously been from midnight to sunrise, he said.

Col. Kevin Walker, U.S. Air Forces Central Command Director of Force Protection, denied in a statement later Saturday reports that U.S. forces are evacuating contractors or any other personnel from Balad air base.

"Operations at Balad Air Base are continuing as normal. Claims that personnel are being evacuated are categorically false," Walker said. "There are no plans at this time to evacuate any personnel from Balad."

"The safety and security of all Air Force personnel and those that provide services to the U.S. Air Force are constantly evaluated, and should there be increased threats to our people, the U.S. Air Force will put measures in place to provide the protections required," he said.

Like neighboring Iran, Iraq is a Shiite-majority country, and has been trying to maintain a fine line between allies Tehran and Washington. There have been concerns that Baghdad could once again get caught in the middle, just as it is on the path to recovery.

Iraq hosts more than 5,000 U.S. troops, and is home to powerful Iranian-backed militias, some of whom want those U.S. forces to leave.

18 MONDAY, JUNE 24, 2019 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Focus

By MARÍA VERZA

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A P A C H U L A,

Mexico (AP)—The
36-year-old Cuban
mechanic's eyes
glazed over as he recalled his time at the
Siglo XXI holding
facility: 50 people
sleeping in 9-by-12foot pens, feces overflowing the latrines, food and
water always scarce.

Women slept in hallways or in the dining hall among rats, cockroaches and pigeon droppings, as children wailed, mothers reused diapers and guards treated everyone with contempt.

"They threw us in there like little animals," a Honduran woman said.

Many migrants who cross into southern Mexico end up in Siglo XXI, Spanish for "21st century," said to be the largest immigration detention center in Latin America. Located in the city of Tapachula, near the border with Guatemala, it's a secretive place off-limits to public scrutiny where cellphones are confiscated and journalists aren't allowed inside.

The Associated Press was denied access, and the National Immigration Institute, which oversees the facility, did not respond to requests for comment. But about 20 people interviewed by AP including migrants, officials and rights workers who've been inside, described it as sorely overcrowded and filthy, and alleged repeated abusive treatment by agents tasked with running it.

Washington has demanded Mexico slow a migratory surge of mostly Central Americans fleeing poverty and violence but also Cubans, Haitians and Africans, and President Donald Trump has said threatened tariffs on Mexican imports may be revived if it doesn't get results. As President Andrés Manuel López Obrador puts in motion a stillvague plan to crack down in response, observers fear an already overtaxed Mexico is woefully unprepared for the prospect of more arrests.

"If more people are detained, there is not the corresponding infrastructure to handle it," Edgar Corzo of the governmental National Human Rights Commission said Thursday during a tour of southern Mexico ahead of an anticipated, 6,000-strong National Guard deployment to help police immigration.

As of late April there were more than 2,000 migrants in Siglo XXI, according to the commission, over double its 960 capacity. Hundreds were moved to an improvised camp



Overcrowding, abuse seen at Mexico migrant detention center

and that was down to 1,230 as of last week, Corzo said. Another facility in Tuxtla Gutierrez with a capacity of 80 was holding 400.

"I cannot imagine putting 100 more or hundreds more at the Siglo XXI. ... The migratory stations are not prepared to respond to greater capacity because they have been overwhelmed," Corzo said.

Most of those interviewed for this story spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals. But from them a picture of the hermetic Siglo XXI emerges.

It's a prisonlike compound with 16- to 30-foot (5- to 10-meter) walls, control towers, security cameras and high-ceiling caged areas where guards patrol above the migrants. There is a punishment cell called "the well" which the government has promised not to use, though the Fray Matias de Cordova Human Rights Center, one of the few NGOs allowed inside, has not been able to verify that.

Crossing through the barred entryway, one emerges onto a patio and a sort of loading dock where people come and go on buses. Migrants arrive after being swept up in raids or tricked into thinking they're just going to have their documents checked, several ex-detainees said. Shoelaces, belts and phones are taken away,

though extra food, a cigarette or a phone call can be obtained—if you can pay for it.

The U.N. refugee agency and other organizations criticized detention centers in Mexico even before the current crisis, saying migrants are held in substandard conditions and regularly extorted. They have called for detentions to be the exception, and to be completely eliminated for minors. Yet children continue to fill up the centers, even after a girl died in Mexico City under unclear circumstances.

A 29-year-old Honduran woman named Graciela said she didn't sleep at Siglo XXI for fear of rumors that her 7-and 9-year-olds could be taken from her. Agents pressured her to accept deportation, but she refused. The kids were scared.

"They said to me, 'Let's go!' 'Why are we here?'" said Graciela, who was now free and waiting for her refugee claim to be processed. "Sometimes we all cried."

Julio, a 15-year-old Cuban, was separated from his parents though they were all within Siglo XXI.

"I panicked," his mother said of her fear during a detainee riot. "I cried, I begged them to tell me if he was OK, but nothing. I went five days without seeing him."

Foreign Relations Secretary

Marcelo Ebrard acknowledged recently that migration facilities in the south have long been neglected and are "well below standards." Then-immigration commissioner Tonatiuh Guillén, who resigned Friday at López Obrador's request, allowed in a recent interview that "they have a very severe model of control."

López Obrador says human rights continue to be the cornerstone of his immigration policy, and officials are studying options for building new and more open facilities.

Foreign Relations Deputy Secretary Maximiliano Reyes told reporters Monday that that very day a plan to improve migration centers was beginning, including hygienic measures, security cameras and biometric controls for migrants. Reyes did not address the overcrowding problem.

Migrants at Siglo XXI quickly learn there are two ways out: Deported by bus, or released with papers documenting a refuge request. But even that's no guarantee. The mechanic said agents tore up his asylum document in front of him for no apparent reason.

The federal government has also acknowledged that the National Migration Institute is one of Mexico's most corrupt institutions. More than 600 employees have been purged and new agents have sent to Siglo XXI, though details are unknown.

Salva Lacruz of Fray Matias said Siglo XXI remains in "negligent, irresponsible and racist" hands, and in disregard of directives from Mexico City.

In their desperation some detainees recently found a third way out: Rioting and escaping.

More than 600 migrants overwhelmed guards and fled Siglo XXI in April. Migrants allege the escape was encouraged—the mechanic said some cells were unlocked that day—though authorities deny that. The incident elevated tensions including disputes between migrants and fears among the workers.

Cubans were blamed and targeted for reprisals, according to Eliezer Pino, Jonathan Eduardo Merrero, Yunier Rives, Yasiel Rodríguez, Danilo Claro and Eduardo Martínez, who agreed to speak by name collectively figuring there's safety in numbers. All born in Cuba, they said they were plucked from the crowd, taken behind buses and beaten.

Pino said he was kicked by six agents and punched in the eye. His only offense, he said, was yelling "We want out!" and moving toward the door with others.

They were transferred in a group of about 30 that night to a highway immigration check-

A Mexican federal police officer photographs migrants from India being detained by immigration officials at a checkpoint on the highway in Tapachula, Chiapas state, Mexico, June 10, 2019. Mexican and U.S. officials reached an accord late Friday that calls on Mexico to crackdown on migrants in exchange for Trump backing off his threat to impose a 5% tariff on Mexico's exports.

point where they spent the next 45 days in similar conditions, not allowed outside, rarely able to bathe and getting almost no sleep because the lights and a loud television were always on.

"They told us, 'You're dog food," Pino said.

"It was torture, a hell," Martínez said.

They were also cut off from the outside world. Rodríguez said relatives back in Cuba went so long without news, they thought he was dead: "They even held a wake for me."

Some gave in and agreed to be deported. The six Cubans held out and were released after filing asylum requests with the help of Fray Matias, though they are barred from leaving Tapachula.

Since January, Mexico has detained over 74,000 migrants and deported over 53,000. Raids have continued with support from military and police who've been there for weeks, and at least some of them are now patrolling with National Guard insignia.

NGOs applaud certain improvements such as the closure of five small stations where abuses were documented and the top-level acknowledgments of deficiencies.

But with Mexico already overwhelmed, Enrique Vidal Olascoaga of Fray Matias warned of possible "hot deportations"—kicking out migrants as soon as they cross, without evaluating whether they have a need for refuge.

"Migratory flows do not diminish through the art of magic," Vidal Olascoaga said, "and in the short term are only achieved through massive detentions and deportations."

Some who passed through Siglo XXI said the experience, while awful, changed nothing regarding their need to flee their homes.

Yanel, a 21-year-old Honduran, said she was terrified during two weeks there with her 2-year-old daughter. But what she left behind was worse: A husband belonging to the violent Barrio 18 gang who beat her so badly she nearly miscarried.

Siglo XXI "is worth it," Yanel said, "if they give you papers."

SAIPAN TRIBUNE MONDAY, JUNE 24, 2019 **19**

Health & Wellness

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A common myth about aging is that older adults are burdened by illness and feel lousy much of the time. In fact, the opposite is usually true. Most seniors report feeling distinctly positive about their health.

Consider data from the 2017 National Health Interview Survey (the most recent available), administered by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. When asked to rate their overall health, 82% of adults ages 65 to 74 described it as excellent (18%), very good (32%) or good (32%) — on the positive side of the ledger. By contrast, 18% of this age group had a negative perspective, describing their health as fair (14%) or poor (4%).

This trend toward positivity is also evident among adults age 75 and older: 73% of this group said their health was excellent (12%), very good (28%) or good (33%), while only 27% gave a fair (20%) or poor (7%) evaluation.

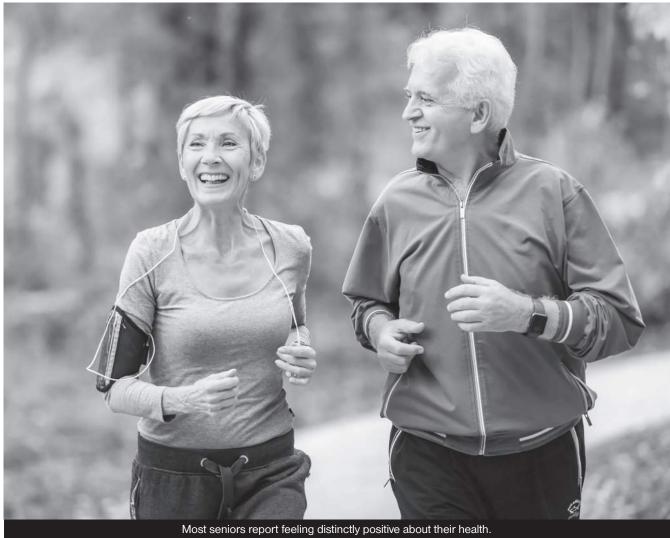
How could this be true when the majority of older adults—about 60%—have two or more chronic illnesses, such as diabetes, arthritis, hypertension, heart disease or kidney disease, and higher rates of physical impairment than other age groups?

The answer lies in how older adults think about their health. For many, good health means more than the lack of illness or disability. The components of health they tend to value more are vitality, emotional well-being, positive social relationships, remaining active and satisfaction with life, while poor physical functioning plays a less important role.

"Being healthy means being able to continue doing what I like: going to the theater, organizing programs, enjoying the arts, walking," said Lorelei Goldman, 80, of Evanston, Ill., who has had ovarian and breast cancer. She also describes her health as "good."

"I have all my faculties and good, longtime friendships," Goldman continued. "I used to be a bad sleeper, but now I'm sleeping much better. Almost every day, there are moments of clarity and joy. I'm involved in a lot of activities that are sustaining."

Even when older adults are coping with medical conditions and impairments, they can usually think of people their age who are worse off than they-those who have died or gone to nursing homes, said Ellen Idler, a professor of sociology at Emory University in Atlanta and a leading researcher in the field of "selfrated health." By comparison,



Why so many older Americans rate their HEALTH AS GOO or even

By JUDITH GRAHAM KAISER HEALTH NEWS

seniors still able to live on their own may feel "I'm doing pretty well."

At some point, merely surviving can be interpreted as a sign of good health. "People hit their 80s and 90s, look around and feel pretty good about just being alive," Idler said.

That isn't true for younger adults, who measure their health against an ideal "there shouldn't be anything wrong with me" standard. But expectations for what constitutes good health change as people move into later life.

"Older people expect some deterioration in health and aren't thrown off course in the same way when it occurs," said Jason Schnittker, a professor of sociology at the Uni-

versity of Pennsylvania who has studied self-rated health.

Resilience is also at play. As older adults adapt to illness and other physical changes, they tend to adjust their outlook. "I may be handicapped, but I can still walk," one 86-year-old woman told Swiss researchers after being hospitalized due to a fall and forced to use a stick to get around. She considered herself fortunate and rated her health positively. "As long as you can get to church, as long as you can walk, you can say all's well," a man in his 80s declared after becoming severely disabled because of a slipped disc in his spine and an embolism. He, too, felt good about his health.

Lest you think older adults'

Schnittker noted. Idler and Yael Benyamini, a professor at Tel Aviv University's Bob Shapell School of Social Work, were among the first scholars to highlight the association between selfrated health and mortality in a much-cited 1997 study that examined research reports from around the world. The

link was consistent even when

adjustments were made for

respondents' medical condi-

strongly predictive of longev-

ity" as well as other outcomes

such as cognitive health and

use of health care services,

bias toward positivity is a sign tions, medication use, health care utilization, socioeconomof denial or a lack of objectivity, a large body of research ic status and other factors. In a phone conversation, shows it's highly meaningful. "Self-rated health is very

Benyamini offered two explanations for this finding, which has been widely replicated. People may be acutely attuned to subtle changes in their bodies, like increased pain or fatigue, that end up being significant but may be hard for doctors to detect. Also, people may factor in how multiple medical conditions interact and affect them-something that medical tests don't pick up.

"Say you have diabetes, angina and osteoarthritis. How does this affect your life? It's very individual—no one can tell from the outside—and it's

a hard to put your finger on as a physician," she said.

Another possible explanation is that people who feel healthy are more likely to be active and take care of themselves, making it likely they'll survive longer, Benyamini said.

Of course, this positivity isn't universal. African Americans, Hispanics, people with lower levels of income and education, and individuals with poor social connections are more likely to rate their health negatively as they age. At younger ages, women rate their health more poorly than men, but this changes in later life, with men becoming more likely to report worse health and women becoming more optimistic.

Sometimes, surveys assess self-rated mental health separately, and results for older adults again overturn common assumptions about negativity associated with older age. The National Social Life, Health, and Aging Project, spearheaded by investigators at the University of Chicago, found that fewer than 1% of adults (ages 57 to 97) rated their mental health as poor; just under 8% considered it fair; nearly 23% thought it was good; nearly 41% believed it was very good; and 28% judged it excellent. This data, based on a representative sample of 3,101 individuals surveyed in 2015, was provided upon request and has not yet been published.

"Mental health becomes an even more important component of self-rated health with age," Schnittker said. Depression, in particular, appears to be a negative influence, affecting how people view their circumstances.

Although Laurie Brock, 69, of Denver, has severe arthritis and systemic lupus erythematosus, she considers her health "very good" and credits her optimism, her close relationships and her "extremely active life." Poor health would mean being bedridden, "not being able to go out or be as mobile as I am" or extended suffering, she said.

"My attitude now is 'I've lived 70 good years, and I hope the next years are rich as well," Brock said. "I think most people fear old age. But once they get there, it's like, 'Oh, I'm still going, I'm still OK.' And fear becomes acceptance."

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20 MONDAY, JUNE 24, 2019 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Life & Style

10 troubled, triumphant years for the Michael Jackson estate

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ten years ago, entertainment law-yer John Branca and Michael Jackson renewed the partnership that had brought the wealth and status of both men to new heights. Eight days later, Jackson would be dead. Yet his role in Branca's life would only become larger.

Branca has represented his own pantheon of stars, but considered Jackson history's greatest entertainer, and had guided him through some of his biggest moments including the King of Pop's "Thriller" video, his "Bad" tour, and his acquisition of The Beatles' song catalog.

"Michael and I in the 80s were quite the team," Branca, now the co-executor of Jackson's estate, said in an interview with The Associated Press from his Los Angeles office, where he reflected on the chaotic aftermath of Jackson's death, the pile of debt that Jackson left, the deals that made his name skyrocket in value again, and challenges like the recent documentary "Leaving Neverland" that threatened to sink his reputation again.

After seven years of little contact, Jackson rehired Branca on June 17, 2009, while the singer was rehearsing for his would-be "This Is It" comeback tour. Branca left on a vacation to Mexico, where on June 25 he would get a phone call telling him Jackson was dead at age 50. It was then, he said, that "all hell broke loose."

As he hurried back to the U.S., Branca had his staff comb the vaults and find a 2002 will he did with Jackson that named him co-executor

along with music executive John McClain and left everything to the singer's mother, his children and charity. It would turn out to be the last will Jackson made, to Branca's surprise and to the chagrin of much of the Jackson family, who were cut out of both Jackson's money and control of his legacy.

"It was exhilarating and it was daunting," Branca said. "I did welcome it, it was kind of like reuniting in a sense. I knew I could help, and I knew John could help."

They did indeed, help. Jackson left nearly \$500 million in debt and a tarnished image despite the singer's acquittal of child molestation charges in 2005. Through the end of 2016, the estate has grossed more than \$1.3 billion, according to the most recent court filings available.

"The estate has been incredibly well run, the numbers speak for themselves," said Zack O'Malley Greenburg, a senior editor of media and entertainment at Forbes who has reported extensively on the estate. "He's out-earned pretty much every living entertainer since his death."

The executors did it with moves that included selling Jackson's stake in The Beatles and other song catalogs at a massive profit, renegotiating a titanic record deal with Sony, putting out three posthumous albums and creating a pair of hit shows with Cirque du Soleil.

And while the task was not easy, Jackson left them a goldmine of music and dance to draw from.

"This is the most beloved pop star in history worldwide.



In this Tuesday, June 18, 2019 photo, Entertainment and corporate lawyer John Branca, the co-executor of Michael Jackson's estate, poses in his office next to an artwork presented to him from Sony Music commemorating the sale of 100 million copies of Michael Jackson's album "Thriller," at the law firm of Ziffren Brittenham LLP in Los Angeles.

As good as we might be as managers, we could not have done this for Tommy James and the Shondells," Branca said with a laugh.

Branca had the advantage of being able to build on work he did decades earlier for Jackson, such as The Beatles catalog and the Sony record deal.

"He's not coming in as a cleanup guy," said Kenneth Abdo, an attorney who has worked on major estates including Prince's and is not involved in Jackson estate. "He was an architect of those deals that would become the substance of his estate."

There were inevitable messes. In the wake of Jackson's death, a flood of legal claims came against his estate, some legitimate, several ridiculous, but all required by law to be taken seriously.

"We had several paternity claims that Michael had fathered various children. There was one claim that this gentleman had written every song on the 'Thriller' and 'Bad' albums," Branca said.

As the executors negotiated that morass, they identified two goals: pay down Jackson's debt, and restore his identity as a musician.

"We had to show the real Michael the real artist, and not the tabloid sensation," Branca said.

Looking at the video of rehearsals for Jackson's planned tour, the answer came quickly.

"You saw the real Michael, the great entertainer who is in control of his art, running the whole band, not just a guy who shows up."

The result was "This Is It," the movie drawn from the rehearsals that brought in \$261.2 million in worldwide box office, became the highest-grossing concert film and music documentary of all time, and proved that Jackson's value was once again sky-high.

Branca thought the moment might be their best shot at a major Jackson project.

"As it turned out," he said, "we got a lot of good shots along the road."

There have been minor missteps. Three tracks on Jackson's first posthumous album brought doubts from fans that Jackson actually sang on them. Branca says it was indeed Jackson, but they should not have put out subpar tracks that would create doubt.

"We did all our due diligence—we talked to musicologists, voice experts, we talked to the person who allegedly sang who said 'no I didn't' ... but because of the fans' reaction to those three cuts maybe we wouldn't have done it again." A much bigger threat was to come.

The estate was blindsided in January when Branca and his team learned about "Leaving Neverland," a documentary produced by Britain's Channel 4 and HBO that would premiere just a few weeks later at the Sundance Film Festival.

It featured two men, Wade Robson and James Safechuck, who both spent long stretches with Jackson as boys and had said when the singer was alive that he didn't molest them, but now alleged in graphic and disturbing detail that the singer repeatedly sexually abused them as children.

Both men had filed lawsuits in 2013 about the allegations, which were dismissed, but are on appeal and represent one of the last major legal hurdles the estate faces.

The pushback from the estate, calling the documentary a retread of proven falsehoods from men seeking money, began the same day the film was announced, remained persistent through its airing, and included a lawsuit against HBO.

Branca said they never considered a more muted approach.

"When somebody is not telling the truth, your immediate reaction is to fight back, because it's wrong," he said.

The documentary led to some minor cancellations of his music from radio stations and other entities, but no real widespread, worldwide dip in his popularity.

"So many of the huge deals have already been done, it doesn't really matter if there is some fallout," Greenburg said, "and it doesn't seem to have had a huge effect anyway."

'Michael Jackson drug' still prompts curiosity from patients

By CARLA K. JOHNSON

AP MEDICAL WRITER

It remains the most widely used anesthetic in U.S. hospitals, but many patients still remember propofol as the drug that killed Michael Jackson.

Most are no longer afraid of it, doctors say, though many still ask if they will get "the Michael Jackson drug" before an operation. And most of them will.

Jackson died 10 years ago at his Los Angeles home after receiving a lethal dose of the drug intended for use only during surgery and other medical procedures — not for insomnia.

As Jackson rehearsed for his comeback tour, he strug-

gled to sleep. Prosecutors said Jackson's personal doctor Conrad Murray gave the singer propofol, as he had many times before, then left him unattended. Murray, who maintains his innocence, was convicted of involuntary manslaughter in 2011.

A look at the history and safety of propofol:

MILK OF AMNESIA

Jackson called propofol his "milk." It's a white, oily solution injected into a vein. It acts fast, in about 40 seconds, and wears off quickly too. Patients wake up with no hangover or nausea. They don't remember much, earning the drug its nickname "milk of amnesia."

Propofol was a noteworthy advance when it was launched in the late 1980s, but it almost didn't make it out of the lab. An early version caused allergic reactions.

Discoverer John B. Glen kept at it and found a better formula using soybean oil. Thirteen years after its discovery, propofol rapidly replaced sodium thiopental in most operating rooms. Up to 50 million U.S. patients receive propofol annually.

The World Health Organization deemed it an "essential medicine." Glen, who retired from the pharmaceutical firm AstraZeneca, was honored with the prestigious Lasker medical research award last year.

HOW SAFE IS IT?

Because propofol lowers blood pressure and suppresses breathing, patients need to be monitored.

creactions.

Discoverer John B. Glen esthesiologist's hands," said Dr. Beverly Philip of the American Society of Anesthesiologists.

"It's quite safe in an anesthesiologist's hands," said Dr. Beverly Philip of the American Society of Anesthesiologists.

These days, patients aren't as afraid of going under, she said. "Now it's more of a matter of curiosity rather than being afraid for their own safety."

Dr. Steven Shafer of Stanford University, a propofol expert who testified at Murray's trial, endorses the appropriate use of propofol.

"Michael Jackson was killed by a reckless and incompetent physician," he said. Police rarely encounter the drug. It's not a controlled substance under federal law.

There's little abuse in the general public. Almost all cases involve health care workers. They steal it at work to get a pleasant but dangerous high. At least 18 deaths were reported among medical professionals from 1992 to 2009.

WHAT'S NEW?

University of Utah psychiatrist Dr. Brian Mickey is studying propofol for depression in people who don't get relief from medications or psychotherapy. Other treatments may include brain stimulation such as electroconvulsive therapy, but that can have side effects such as confusion and memory loss.

Mickey and his colleagues published a preliminary study last year that tested a series of high doses of propofol in 10 patients with moderate to severe depression. Half improved and maintained better moods for three months.

Now the researchers are planning a larger study that will test propofol against a sedative called midazolam.

Mickey doesn't know how propofol may help depression, but said it may be triggering the brain to reorganize itself. It may be "coaxing the brain into getting unstuck from this bad, depressed state that it's in," he said.

The study was done in a hospital with an anesthesiologist giving propofol through an IV.

"Don't do this at home," Mickey said.

Weinstein fights sex trafficking claims in actress' lawsuit

NEW YORK (AP)—Harvey Weinstein's lawyers sought Friday to toss out the sex trafficking claims of an actress the disgraced movie-making mogul maintains is trying to capitalize on the legal success of other women.

The lawyers filed papers in

Manhattan federal court to try to persuade a judge to reject Wedil David's trafficking claims.

David's lawsuit, filed in Los Angeles in 2017 and moved to New York, said Weinstein raped her in late 2015 after using the promise of a role in a television series, "Marco Polo," to lure her to a Beverly Hills hotel.

According to the lawsuit, David met Weinstein at a 2011 party, and he offered to assist her acting career. It said he invited her to awards show parties for several years afterward.

The latest Weinstein filing in the lawsuit asks a judge

to reject her sex trafficking claims, which followed similar claims made by women that other judges have approved. Weinstein is appealing those rulings.

The lawyers urged a judge to stop "the further improper expansion of the laws against

human trafficking.'

They argued that the sex trafficking act was established to criminalize slavery, involuntary servitude and human trafficking for commercial gain.

"Attempting to apply the Act to this case is an utter perversion of the legislative intent behind the statute," they wrote. "There are no allega-

NEW YORK (AP)—Gram-

my-winning rapper Cardi

B was charged Friday with

new felony charges in a fight

last year at a New York City

An indictment filed in

state court charges Cardi B

with two counts of felony

attempted assault and vari-

ous lesser charges, includ-

ing harassment and reckless

endangerment. Prosecutors

said she's to appear Tuesday

at an arraignment in Queens.

ously has denied harming

anyone. A message seeking

comment was left with her

The performer previ-

strip club.

Cardi B hit with new felony charges in strip club brawl

lawyer Friday.

tions of slavery, involuntary servitude, or human trafficking in the instant case."

They said Weinstein denies even meeting David. Weinstein has denied sexually assaulting any of the women who have made claims against him. Any sex that occurred, his representatives have asserted, was consensual.

The 26-year-old Cardi B,

whose real name is Belcalis

Almanzar, and her entourage

argued with a bartender at

Angels Strip Club, police

have said. They say a fight

broke out in which chairs,

bottles and hookah pipes

were thrown, causing minor

injuries to the woman and

Cardi B had originally

only been charged with

misdemeanors. Prosecutors

presented the case to a grand

jury after she rejected a plea

deal that would have given

her a conditional discharge.

another employee.

Jagger appears healthy as Rolling Stones rock Soldier Field

CHICAGO (AP)—An energetic Mick Jagger skipped, spun, sprinted and pranced Friday night as the Rolling Stones launched their North American tour at Chicago's Soldier Field.

The 75-year-old showed no sign of ill health three months after the tour was postponed because a doctor said he required medical treatment.

By all visible indications: Jagger was Jagger.

Before a sold-out crowd of around 60,000 at the Chicago Bears home stadium, the band's finger-wagging frontman opened with "Street Fighting Man," running from the stage in the end zone area and down a narrow stage jutting into the crowd on what is normally the 30-yard line of the football field.

He didn't say he was speak-



Mick Jagger, Charlie Watts, and Keith Richards of The Rolling Stones performs during the "No Filter" tour at Soldier Field on Friday, June 21, 2019, in Chicago.

ing about his health, but could have been as Jagger looked out at the audience and shouted, "It feels pretty good!"

A cross-section of fans, from ages 18 to 80, swayed and bobbed as they roared the lyrics in unison to the finale of one of the over 50-year-old band's favorites, singing, "Let's Spend the Night Together."

Jagger sang for over two

hours on a massive stage, with the city's skyline as his backdrop, and seemed no worse for the wear. As he bowed, fireworks exploded overhead.

The No Filter Tour was slated to start April 20 in Miami before doctors told Jagger in late March he required treatment, reportedly for a heart valve issue.

Jagger went out of his way to pay homage to Chicago, a home of the blues and long considered an artistic inspiration by the band. He tipped a hat to the Chicago blues with the edgy "Midnight Rambler," which featured Jagger himself on harmonica.

'We love Chicago so much we decided to start the tour here

instead of Miami," Jagger said, to cheers from the crowd. He also gave a shout out to the new mayor

of Chicago, Lori Lightfoot.

University of New Mexico gets rare George Orwell collection

ALBUOUEROUE, N.M. (AP)—A longtime advocate and employee of the University of New Mexico University Libraries is donating his collection of rare George Orwell books.

The university announced last week that professor and curator emeritus Russ Davidson has agreed to donate his Orwell book collection, which includes first editions of "Animal Farm" and "1984" in various languages.

Davidson's extensive collection also includes scarce editions of many of Orwell's

other books, essays and journalistic writings.

The collection will be part of an Orwell exhibit in Zimmerman Library from September 2019 through spring of 2020.

Davidson worked at University Libraries for 25 years.

The British-born Orwell was known for his allegorical novella "Animal Farm" and dystopian novel "1984," both of which tackled totalitarianism. Orwell's "1984" has become a best-seller in the U.S. again during the Trump administration.

Michelle Obama portrait artist unveils mural of Philly teen

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A mural by the artist who painted the official portrait of Michelle Obama was dedicated on Thursday, portraying not a famous face, but a Philadelphia teen who's overcome personal challenges.

Amy Sherald might be best known for the painting of the former first lady, but her overall body of work represents everyday lives of black Americans.

So it's fitting that the 6-story-tall mural called "Untitled" Najee SpencerYoung, a 19-year-old high school student who has battled bullving and low self-esteem.

Sherald told the Philadelphia Inquirer she chose Spencer-Young as the subject after they met in January through a Mural Arts field trip to her studio. The teen was at first very quiet and pretending to be uninterested, she said, but when Sherald asked for volunteers, she popped right up for a photo shoot.

"After looking at the photos we took, I immediately knew she was the right model

for this mural. I saw it as an opportunity to build her selfesteem as well as (that of) the other young girls that look like her," she told the newspaper.

The mural depicts Spencer-Young in a black-and-white flower print trench coach and mustard yellow hat, looking confident and composedand very imposing—against a bright blue background.

Sherald partnered with Mural Arts Philadelphia's Art Education Program to create the piece. Three Mural Arts' Art Education assistant artists

studied with Sherald to learn her artistic process and work from her design to execute the mural.

As for Spencer-Young, seeing herself as a work of art has been "kind of amazing," she said Thursday after the dedication.

She said high school has been tough but she keeps her head up high and hopes the mural can serve as inspiration to others in her shoes.

"I see a brilliant young lady that is gonna get her life together," she said of her image.

Lake house vacation tradition changes after mom's passing

EAR ABBY: Every summer, my husband and I, our two boys and my parents would take several vacations at Mom and Dad's lake home. This is where Dad grew up and where we spent countless vacations as children. It holds much sentimental value to us all. We were lucky enough to have our own space upstairs and were free to enjoy the home as if it was ours. We always contributed to groceries and cleaning before we left, and it was very enjoyable for everyone.

My mother passed away last year after a long battle with a debilitating disease. Dad is planning to retire soon and move permanently to the lake home, which is about seven hours away. However, he has found a girlfriend he has become close to, and upon retiring, he plans to have her move in with him.

I am thrilled that Dad has found someone, but I'm left wondering how to handle visits to our beloved vacation spot once Dad's new lady moves in. He insists we visit as we naturally would, which usually means staying several nights as it is quite far away. We don't know Dad's lady very well yet, and I'm feeling awkward about visiting. Do we continue to treat this as we once did, like it is partly ours? What's proper etiquette here?

THROWN IN SOUTH DAKOTA

DEAR THROWN: Your father has made it plain that he would like you to visit "as you naturally would." Because

you are feeling awkward, this is something you should discuss with him, if only to make sure he will be able to welcome you as he has in the past. It would not be a breach of etiquette to level with him about what's on your mind. Once you start going there and interacting, you will get to know his lady friend, and she will get to know you—and that should break the ice.

DEAR ABBY: I'm the youngest of five, and all of us are successful in our own ways—except for our middle youngest sibling. She dropped out of college, had a bad breakup with a married man and has given up all hope and efforts to live a normal life.

She's 34, refuses to work and still lives with our parents. She trashed the vehicle our father bought and paid for, and walks around the house talking to herself, which I believe is for attention because I have had serious conversations with her. I've tried several times to be a sympathetic ear and encouraged her to find a job, but it's not working.

What can we do to help her get a job and move? She's a burden on our family, and it's depressing to have her present for family events she doesn't dress for or make an effort to receive other family members. If this continues, I'm scared of what may happen after our parents pass. What can be done for an adult who refuses to grow up and move on?

HOPELESS IN GEORGIA included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR HOPELESS: I have another idea why your sister walks around the house talking to herself and can't motivate herself to be independent. She may be severely depressed or suffering from other mental problems. Talk to your parents and tell them they are not helping her by ignoring the fact that she isn't functional. They need to insist that, as a condition of staying with them, she talk to a mental health professional.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are **22** MONDAY, JUNE 24, 2019 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

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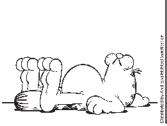














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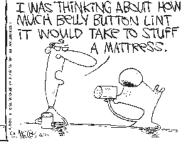
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in Paris

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45 Heavy

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46 Mag. staff

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39 Stewpot

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18 Glide veggie 20 Long Solution time: 26 mins. 23 Pack of cards 24 Wan 25 Wood eater 28 1959 Kingston Trio hit

Last Friday's Answer

50 "Mayday!" 19 Summit

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51 Phoenix

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STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99c per minute, touch tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Minka Kelly, 39; Mindy Kaling, 40; Sherry Stringfield, 52; Jeff Beck, 75.

Happy Birthday: Take a different approach when collaborating with others. Don't be afraid to share your ideas and let your imagination take over. Expressing unique ideas and the changes you want to make will help weed out the people who don't belong in your group and attract those who do. Set a goal, eliminate deadweight and sprint into the future. Your numbers are 2, 15, 21, 27, 35, 43, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your plan of attack should be quiet and reserved. Work as hard as you can behind the scenes to flawlessly construct what you are trying to achieve. Distance yourself from negativity and distractions, and gravitate toward love and laughter. OOO

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Zoom in on what's important to you and how best to get what you want. Great goals can be met if you are enthusiastic, mentally alert and unwilling to give up until you reach your destination. Size up situations before making your move. ••••

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Pay more attention to what you want, how you feel and the improvements you want to make. Patience along with honesty and good intentions will help you bypass manipulative individuals trying to

distract or mislead you. Don't rely on others. CANCER (June 21-July 22): Ask a lot of questions and share your thoughts, and you'll make progress. Don't expect to please everyone or waste too much time laboring over situations that you cannot change. Focus on what you want, and don't stop until you reach your objective. OOOOO

to rethink whatever you are going to do before you venture out. Having a set plan, proper directions and a budget will help you avoid wasting time and money. Update your look or enhance your fitness routine.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): The less time and money spent on personal matters or items, the better. Your skills are best spent on maintenance, helping others or personal growth. Refuse to let an emotional situation

take over. Make a choice and stick to it. OOO LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll learn something new about your family background that will help you recognize how to combat letting others take advantage of you. Keeping the peace may be your objective, but not

when it's at your expense. Learn to say no. ••• SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): The dynamics of your relationships with others is changing. Recognize what others want as well as what you can receive in return. Setting

boundaries can help you even out the score so that no one feels left out or used. 5 stars SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): It's

essential to recognize the difference between compliments and manipulation.

Refuse to let someone play with your emotions, use you to get ahead or deceive you with empty promises. Walk away from temptation. Indulgent behavior will be costly. **QQ**

EUGENIA LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You may want

> THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Share

your vision and turn your dream into something tangible. Set a schedule that will allow you to take care of promises made to those who need your help. OOOO AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Make

changes at home that will encourage you to spend more time there. Develop your skills, and use your talents to create an atmosphere that promotes doing more with loved ones. Don't take on other people's responsibilities. QQQQ

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will come up with exciting ideas and concepts. Before offering solutions or promising to take care of something, make sure you can afford the time, effort and expense required to finish what you start. Avoid emotional mistakes. OOO

Birthday Baby: You are creative, expressive and determined. You are caring and entertaining.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

HOW TO PLAY; All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDELEWORD.

S T T D N S S E A S O N A L P

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MSIMTIRCOLDSILR

M T M P \$ T A N I \$ E R D B A

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OUELLET

Solution: 7 letter

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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Difficulty Level *

6/24

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

				-					
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Difficulty Local A # A # 107									

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WONDERWORD

BOILED PEANUTS

Р

Adds, Anise, Bags, Batch, Bite, Blend, Cajun, Canned, Cayenne, Chilli, Cold, Crab, Crack, Crop, Damp, Drain, Farm, Garlic, Green, Harvest, Hours, Jalapeños, Mature, Mint, Mixture, Moisture, Nuts. Paprika, Pepper, Raw, Recipe, Rinse, Roast, Salt, Seasonal, Shell, Shrimp, Simmer, Snack, Soak, Soft, Spice, Steam, Stir, Summer, Taste, Tender, Tradition, Treat, Valencia, Water Last Friday's Answer: Butcher

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Draft is over, and now on the clock: Free agency

METAIRIE, La. (AP)—Now on the clock: Chaos.

The NBA offseason is about to kick into high gear.

A draft that had good bits of intrigue—at least after New Orleans' Zion Williamson, Memphis' Ja Morant and New York's R.J. Barrett were chosen first, second and third in moves that were widely expected for weeks is now done. Up next is free agency, which will be much more unpredictable when it begins on June 30.

Kawhi Leonard, Kevin Durant, Kemba Walker and Kyrie Irving all were All-Star starters this past season and may soon change addresses. So might fellow All-Stars Khris Middleton, Nikola Vucevic and Klay Thompson. Al Horford has apparently decided to leave Boston. Anthony Davis has already been traded to the Los Angeles Lakers, or at least will be traded when the new league year begins July 6.

"We'll have more answers then," Boston Celtics President Danny Ainge said.

In the meantime, questions abound.

More than 200 players are free agents. The available salary cap space around the league for next season alone exceeds \$500 million. Add up the value of every deal that's going to be signed starting on July 6, and it's conceivable that teams will combine to commit more than \$2 billion in new salaries over the next four or five years.

"I feel like I'm going to need every dollar," Philadelphia 76ers general manager Elton Brand said.

He's not alone. It is going to be a spending frenzy.

Luxury real estate agents in the New York area might be drooling at the thought of the Brooklyn Nets and New York Knicks having well over \$100 million in cap space to play with this summer. That sort of available cash means both the Nets and Knicks could conceivably lure two maxsalary players to their clubs, and both franchises are certain to pursue the big names like Leonard, Durant, Walker and Irving.

"I don't know what they're going to be interested in, but when they look at Brooklyn from afar we've got to give them some credit because the guys that are free agents, all of them have spent the last year or two surveying the league," Brooklyn Nets general manager Sean Marks told reporters early Friday. "They know where they want to go and what they want to be a part of."



Toronto Raptors forward Kawhi Leonard (2) and Golden State Warriors forward Kevin Durant (35) reach for the ball during the first half of an NBA basketball game Thursday, Nov. 29, 2018, in Toronto.

Walker could command \$221 million from Charlotte, though he has said he will take less. Durant could get the same from Golden State, and he hasn't said he would take less. Leonard is probably the biggest mystery case that needs solving; the now twotime NBA Finals MVP could end up with the Los Angeles Clippers, he could stay with the NBA champion Toronto Raptors, or look to New York. And as is almost always the case with Leonard, there have been no real hints.

Some oddsmakers in Las Vegas already say the Lakers—with Davis teaming alongside LeBron James and potentially a third star player—are the favorites to win the 2020 NBA title. Those odds could swing big-time in the next few weeks.

It was already going to be

a wild summer, and the decisions that are looming got even more interesting-unfortunately so—when Durant and Thompson endured major injuries during Golden State's loss to the Raptors in the NBA Finals. Both will miss, at minimum, most of next season. Still, the Warriors clearly want to retain them.

"Those are guys that you do everything you can to keep within your organization," Warriors general manager Bob Myers said.

Free agency isn't the only mechanism that will be in play over the coming weeks.

Some teams, if inclined to dramatically change the makeup of their rosters, will have to do so through trades this summer. Miami, a team never shy about getting into the free-agent fight, isn't likely to be that active this time

around because it lacks cap space.

"There are possibilities," Heat President Pat Riley said.

"Possibilities" will be a buzzword in the NBA for the next few days, until the circus begins at 6 p.m. Eastern time on June 30.

The Celtics are bracing to lose both Irving and Horford; Irving led Boston in points and assists per game, Horford led the team in rebounds per game. Ainge, when meeting with reporters after the draft, wasn't willing to say much about either situation since nothing is technically done yet—but his message was clear nonetheless.

Raptors making final pitch to Kawhi

The title won and the draft over, the Toronto Raptors turn to the next order of business:

keeping Leonard.

He is expected to opt out of the final year of his contact and become a free agent June 30. The two-time NBA Finals MVP and three-time All-Star is likely the biggest prize on the market.

Toronto can offer Leonard a five-year deal worth about \$190 million—one year and some \$50 million more than any other suitor.

After a season-long soft sell that ended with the team's first championship and a mas-

sive downtown parade, the Raptors have just more than a week to craft, plan and present their final pitch to the best player in franchise history.

"We obviously want to put a couple of special touches on it," general manager Bobby Webster said Friday. "But, yeah, we're comfortable. Throughout the year we've been talking about the things that we can offer and what made this season so special. I think we'll just continue

Winners and losers in draft

The 2019 NBA draft has come and gone, but before we look too far ahead, let's take a step back and examine the winners-and losers-from what was an eventful night at Brooklyn's Barclays Center.

New executive vice president of basketball operations David Griffin continues to excel on the job. Taking Zion Williamson No. 1 was a nobrainer, so no credit there. However, he traded the No. 4 pick the Pelicans acquired in the Anthony Davis deal to Atlanta for three picks (eight, 17 and 35). He selected big man Jaxson Hayes, giving New Orleans an extremely athletic frontcourt, and took combo guard Nickeil Alexander-Walker and Brazilian wing Marcos Louzada Silva with the other two picks. The Pels are loaded with young talent.

The Cavs are in a unique situation with owner Dan Gilbert recovering from a stroke, which means general manager Koby Altman carries an even larger responsibility to guide the team through a rebuild. Cleveland drafted Darius Garland at No. 5, giving the Cavs the potential for a dynamic Portland-like backcourt with Collin Sexton. Altman added shooting and playmaking with Belmont forward Dylan Windler and took a chance on shooting guard Kevin Porter Jr. at No. 30. New Cavs coach John Beilein was masterful in college at developing young talent.

How can Bol, who was but fell all the way to No. 44, be in this category? Well for starters, he's officially an NBA player, following in the footsteps of his father, Manute Bol. Injuries and questions regarding his work ethic played a role in his stock tanking, and now he has the opportunity to prove everybody—including the teams that passed on him-wrong. The 7-3 center has the potential to be a star.

The Grizzlies are in a

midst of a rebuild, and when they traded away Mike Conley earlier in the week, the Grit-N-Grind era officially ended. It's now time for a new era. Point guard and No. 2 overall pick Ja Morant has the potential to be a superstar, while forward Brandon Clarke, whom the Grizzlies took at No. 21, could be one of the steals of the draft. Pair them with last year's No. 4 pick, Jaren Jackson Jr., and the Grizzlies have a young core to be excited about.

Sixteen international players were drafted-eight in the first round, eight in the second. Rui Hachimura become the first Japanese player ever drafted in the first round when he was taken ninth overall by Washington, while Canada (six players drafted) set the record for most draftees from a non-U.S. country in one draft. Also of note: A record eight former Basketball Without Borders campers were drafted, which is huge for the NBA's continued growth.

Sure, the Bucks and Rockets finished the regular season with 60 and 53 wins and advanced to the conference finals and semifinals, respectively. But there's something special about fans gathering on draft night to watch what their team does -or doesn't do. It was the latter for Bucks and Rockets fans, whose teams didn't make any picks.

Quite simply, no one knows what the Suns were trying to accomplish on draft day. once viewed as a lottery pick They need a point guard but traded the sixth pick (when Coby White would have been available) for the 11th pick and Dario Saric. With the 11th pick, they took 23-year-old Cam Johnson, a great shooter who spent five years in college and was projected to go in the early-to-mid 20s. Seeking more shooting and playmaking, they drafted Ty Jerome. The Suns also traded T.J. Warren for cap space. Whatever the plan is, Phoenix better hope it works in free agency.

Pujols curtain call HR for Angels, but Cards won



ST. LOUIS
(AP)—Albert
Pujols deliv-

ered for his many fans in St. Louis. The Cardinals were crowd pleasers, too.

Pujols took a curtain call for his adoring fans at Busch Stadium after homering against the Cardinals, but Marcell Ozuna connected to lead Dakota Hudson and St. Louis over the Los Angeles Angels, 4-2, on Saturday.

Pujols was all smiles as he circled the bases after his 13th home run, a solo drive in the seventh inning. He got a standing ovation during his trot, and the cheers grew louder until Pujols emerged from the dugout and tipped his hat to the sellout crowd.

"Trying to walk around the bases, getting to the plate and trying to get into the dugout and hold everything in—that was hard," Pujols said. "It was pretty special."

"It's just a special moment," Pujols said. "It's great, but you get to the part that we lost the game, and that to me is important, too."

Pujols has 646 career homers, including 445 in his 11 seasons with the Cardinals. His 111 home runs at the new Busch Stadium are the most by anyone.

The three-time NL MVP who helped the Cardinals win two World Series championships returned to the ballpark on Friday night for the first time since helping St. Louis take the 2011 title. Pujols signed with the Angels after that season, and they hadn't played an interleague game at Busch until this weekend.

Yankees 7, Astros 5

In New York, Giancarlo Stanton hit a pair of go-ahead, two-run singles, both off third baseman Yuli Gurriel's glove, and the Yankees won their eighth straight.

Houston lost its seventh in a row in the matchup of AL division leaders.

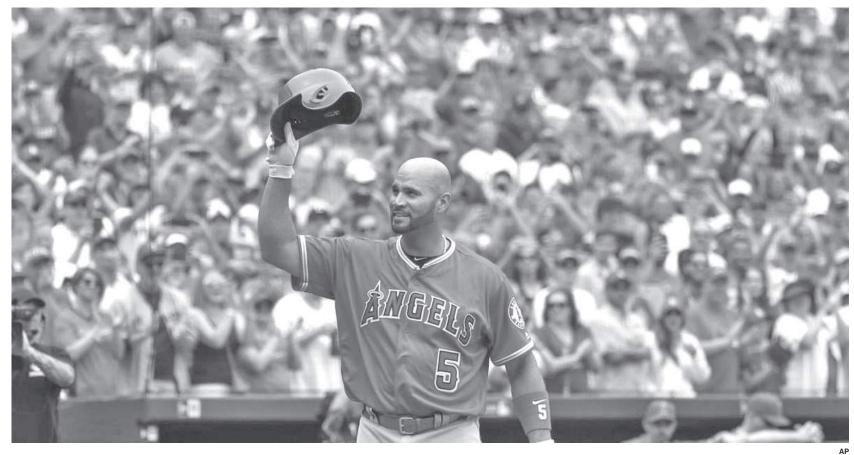
Zack Britton earned his third save. The Astros stranded 11 runners.

Gio Urshela and Austin Romine went deep for New York, giving the Yankees a homer in 25 straight games. That tied Joe DiMaggio and the 1941 Yankees for most in franchise history.

Dodgers 5, Rockies 4, 11 innings

In Los Angeles Alex Verdugo hit his second home run of the game in the 11th inning and the Dodgers extended their winning streak to five games.

Verdugo hit a fastball from Jesus Tinoco (0-1) into the Rockies' bullpen for his fourth hit of the game and second career game-ending homer. It was



Los Angeles Angels' Albert Pujols tips his hat to fans after getting a curtain call when he hit a home run during the seventh inning of a baseball game against the St. Louis Cardinals, Saturday, June 22, 2019, in St. Louis.

the second straight night the Dodgers won with the long ball.

Raimel Tapia's pinch-hit home run in the seventh had given the Rockies a 4-3 lead, but Beaty tied it at 4 in the eighth with an RBI single.

Twins 5, Royals 3

In Kansas City, C.J. Cron homered and singled in the goahead run in the 10th inning, and Minnesota beat the Royals.

Miguel Sano and Jake Cave also homered for the Twins, who blew a 3-0 lead in the eighth before pushing ahead for good in the 10th. Eddie Rosario's double to deep right off Wily Peralta (2-3) scored Cave for a two-run cushion.

Trevor May (2-1) worked a scoreless ninth and Blake Parker retired the side in the 10th for his 10th save in 11 chances. AL Central-leading Minnesota has won two straight after losing four of its previous five.

Mets 10, Cubs 2

In Chicago, rookie slugger Pete Alonso hit his 26th homer to set the NL record for most homers before the All-Star Game as New York routed Chicago.

Alonso broke a tie with Los Angeles' Cody Bellinger (2017). He's still seven short of Mark McGwire's major league record 33 accomplished in 1987.

Todd Frazier and Wilson Ramos also homered for the Mets, who won consecutive road games for the first time in over two months.

Marlins 5, Phillies 3

In Philadelphia, Wilkin Castillo hit a go-ahead two-run double in the seventh inning in

his first game back in the majors in 10 years, lifting Miami over the Phillies.

The Phillies have lost six in a row and 15 of 21.

Austin Brice (1-0) struck out two in a perfect sixth for the last-place Marlins, who've won three in a row. Wei-Yin Chen tossed 2 1/3 scoreless innings and Jose Quijada retired Cesar Hernandez on an infield popup for the final out with the bases loaded for his first save in his seventh bigleague appearance.

Bryce Harper and Rhys Hoskins hit back-to-back homers for the Phillies. JT Riddle hit a solo shot for Miami.

Pirates 6, Padres 3

In Pittsburgh Adam Frazier hit a tiebreaking, two-run single in the eighth inning and the Pirates beat San Diego.

It was 2-all when Starling Marte led off the eighth with a triple against reliever Craig Stammen (5-4). Josh Bell and Corey Dickerson walked to load the bases, and Frazier singled up the middle. Elias Diaz added on with an RBI single and pinch-hitter Jung Ho Kang had a sacrifice fly.

Kyle Crick (3-3) worked around a walk and a hit in the eighth. Felipe Vazquez faced just one batter to earn his 19th save of the season.

Manny Machado opened the scoring with a solo home run in the fourth inning, his 16th of the season the Padres. He also drove in Tatis with a single in the ninth.

Blue Jays 8, Red Sox 7

In Boston, Freddy Galvis and Rowdy Tellez hit back-toback homers to help Toronto rally from a six-run deficit, and Eric Sogard drew a fourpitch, bases-loaded walk to break an eighth-inning tie.

Boston scored five times in the second and led 6-0 after three before its bullpen blew a save for the 15th time in 31 chances. The Blue Jays trailed 6-1 before scoring four in the seventh on two homers and a wild pitch, then added three more in the eighth, when Matt Barnes (3-2) and Ryan Brasier combined to walk four straight batters with two outs.

Athletics 4, Rays 2

In Oakland, Matt Chapman homered in the third inning and doubled in the go-ahead run in the seventh, leading the Athletics past Tampa Bay.

Ramon Laureano had two hits, was hit by pitches twice—including once with the bases loaded—and threw out a runner from center field for the A's. Khris Davis singled and scored.

Ji-Man Choi hit his ninth home run and Joey Wendle had two hits for Tampa Bay, which has lost nine of 12.

Orioles 8, Mariners 3

In Seattle, Jonathan Villar hit a three-run homer, Anthony Santander had a two-run shot and Baltimore ended a 10-game skid with a win over the Mariners.

Andrew Cashner worked six strong innings for the Orioles, who snapped the eighth-longest losing streak in club history. Cashner (7-3) allowed two runs while scattering five hits and striking out three.

Tommy Milone (1-2) held the Orioles without a hit for the first three innings.

Domingo Santana finished 2 for 3 and scored three runs,

including his 19th home run of the year for the Mariners, who had their three-game winning streak halted.

Brewers 6, Reds 5

In Milwaukee, Yasmani Grandal led off for the first time in his career and homered in his opening at-bat to help the Brewers snap a season-high five-game losing streak.

Grandal put the Brewers ahead 5-4 with an RBI double in the fourth. Two outs later, he scored on Lorenzo Cain's bloop single that chased Reds starter Luis Castillo (7-2).

NL MVP Christian Yelich scored a run, but went 0 for 3 to end his career-high hitting streak and the longest in the majors at 18 games.

Matt Albers (4-2) pitched 1 1/3 innings of scoreless relief. Josh Hader struck out four of the final six outs for his 18th save.

Indians 2, Tigers O

In Cleveland, Aaron Civale dazzled in his major league debut, striking out the side to begin the game and allowing just two infield hits over six innings in the Indians' win over Detroit.

Civale struck out six, walked three and worked out of a sixth-inning jam.

Jose Ramirez had an RBI triple in the second while Oscar Mercado added an RBI single in the third.

Tigers starter Spencer Turnbull (3-7) allowed two runs in six innings.

Braves 13, Nationals 9

In Washington, Dansby Swanson hit a tie-breaking three-run homer in the eighth inning, Freddie Freeman drove in five runs and Atlanta rallied from a four-run deficit against the Nationals' beleaguered bullpen.

Freeman tied the Braves' franchise record of 10 consecutive games with an RBI. Sid Gordon also accomplished the feat for the then-Boston Braves in 1951.

The Braves hammered Joe Ross (0-1) who squandered a 9-8 lead for Washington, which had won five in a row.

A.J. Minter (1-4) pitched the seventh and earned the victory as Atlanta won for the 12 time in 15 games.

Rangers 6, White Sox 5

In Arlington, Nomar Mazara hit two home runs, Lance Lynn shook off a four-run first inning and retired 17 of the last 18 batters he faced, and Texas beat Chicago.

Run-scoring singles by Texas' Shin-Soo Choo and Delino DeShields wiped out Chicago's 5-4 lead in the sixth inning.

Mazara had his fourth career two-homer game and drove in three runs.

Giants 7, Diamondbacks 4

In Phoenix, Alex Dickerson has had two nights to remember in his return to the big leagues.

Dickerson had three RBIs, and five San Francisco relievers held the Arizona Diamondbacks scoreless for five innings in the Giants' win.

Dickerson, who doubled twice, has now driven in nine runs in two games after a six-RBI night on Friday, when he was called up from the minors.

USMNT gets revenge with rout of Trinidad

CLEVELAND (AP)—The only embarrassment and shame was felt on the other side.

Two years later, the U.S. soccer team turned the tables on Trinidad and Tobago.

Gyasi Zardes scored two goals in a three-minute span, Christian Pulisic added one during a five-goal barrage in the second half and the Americans unloaded on their nemesis in a 6-0 blowout in the CONCACAF Gold Cup on Saturday night, earning a small dose of revenge over the team that handed them a nightmarish loss in 2017.

Aaron Long scored his first two international goals—one with his head, the other off his chest-and Paul Arriola scored as the U.S. tallied five times in 25 minutes while cruising to its second shutout this week and advancing to the quarterfinals in Philadelphia on June 30.

It was the first matchup between the U.S. and Trinidad and Tobago since Oct. 10, 2017, when the Americans, needing only a tie to qualify for the 2018 World Cup, lost 2-1 to the Soca Warriors.

The embarrassing defeat snapped a streak of seven straight World Cup appearances by the Americans and triggered a top-to-bottom overhaul of the men's program, which has operated in the imposing shadow of the powerful U.S. women, seeking their fourth world title in France.

There would be no repeat performance by this revamped U.S. team, which is determined to win back global respect.

"Every time we step on the field we want to make a statement," said Zardes, who just missed getting a third goal. "We're trying to change the way the world views American soccer."

The Americans posted their



most lopsided win since beating Honduras 6-0 in a World Cup qualifier on March 24, 2017, when Pulisic, who took over this game in the second half, also scored and had a pair of assists.

But while much of the pregame talk centered on the U.S. getting payback, the Americans insist they've put the past behind them.

"For us, we advance to the next round," coach Gregg Berhalter said. "That's important. Our focus was to prepare for this game knowing that if we'd be able to go to the next round. That was the focus of the group. Trinidad was in our way." Not anymore.

With the U.S. leading 1-0 on Long's goal in

Concacaf

the 41st minute, Zardes scored from right in front shortly after U.S. goalkeeper Zack

Steffen made a diving save to stop Trinidad from tying a match the Americans dominated

Michael Bradley chipped the ball from the left side to a charging Nick Lima, who headed the ball to Zardes in front. The American striker only had to guide it by Trinidad keeper

Marvin Phillip in the 65th minute. Two minutes later, Zardes buried a hard shot from the left

side for his 10th international goal and second twogoal game for the Americans.

Zardes nearly completed a hat trick, but his low shot from up top in the 70th minute hit the left upright.

Next up for the Americans is a matchup with Panama on Wednesday in Kansas City, Kansas. The Panamanians improved to 2-0 in Group D of the 16-team tournament with a 4-2 win over Guyana, also clinching a quarterfinal berth.

On a picture-perfect night along the shores of Lake Erie, the American team controlled possession and tempo while thoroughly outplaying T&T, which was blanked 2-0 by Panama in its opening match and was eliminated.

The Soca Warriors were content to sit back and let the U.S. attack, hoping to spring counters. They nearly connected in the 61st minute as Cordell Cato eluded three defenders on the right side and hit teammate Levi Garcia in stride. But Garcia's shot was U.S. forward Paul Arriola, right, plays the ball against Trinidad and Tobago defender Aubrey David during the second half of a CONCACAF Gold Cup soccer match Saturday, June 22, 2019, in Cleveland, The United States won, 6-0.

high and wide, a close call that prompted a collective gasp from the U.S. faithful.

"Big moment," Trinidad coach Dennis Lawrence said. "When you get in that position, you have to put that away."

Lawrence was upset with how his team collapsed following the U.S. team's second goal.

"How can you play so good for 65 minutes and then so awful for the last 25?" he said, repeating his postgame message to his players. "We have to learn to stand up and fight. We lost focus and we paid the price."

Berhalter stuck with the same starting lineup he used in the opener over Guyana but gave the captain's arm band to Steffen for the first time. Bradley captained the Americans in the opening 4-0 win over Guyana.

Long, who plays in the MLS for the New York Red Bulls, put the U.S. ahead off a beautiful feed from the left side by Pulisic.

Shortly after the U.S. was awarded a free kick, the Americans kept pressing and maintained possession in Trinidad's half before Pulisic spotted Long inside the 6-yard-box and delivered an arching pass to the forward, who left his feet, connected and drove the ball past a sprawling Phillip.

The score touched off a flag-waving celebration behind the goal by red-whiteand blue clad U.S. fans, who have been anxiously awaiting their team's chance at some redemption.

Carson Wentz got paid this

NEW YORK—

summer, he won't be the only one. With the NFL season just a little fewer than three months away from kicking off, some teams will likely soon look to lock up players who are facing expiring contracts. Texans edge rusher

cons defensive tackle Grady Jarrett are separate cases after they were both tendered with the franchise tag, leaving them until July 15 to sign long-term deals.

Jadeveon Clowney and Fal-

Here are some of the more notable players next in line to get an extension.

Dak Prescott, QB, Cow**boys:** Dallas has had the benefit of playing a franchise quarterback on a fourth-round

ots: This very likely will be Brady's final contract in the NFL. He'll turn 42 in August and has hinted that he wants to play until he's 45. His current deal expires at the end of the 2019 season, so look for New England to move quickly and on a team-friendly deal Brady has become known for sign-

Philip Rivers, QB, Char**gers:** Rivers recently said he was "fine" to let his contract play out and that there was "no immediate stress or urgency" to get a deal done before next offseason. So maybe this is one contract that gets resolved after 2019 ends. But even though Rivers is 37, he just made his eighth Pro Bowl and continues to keep the Chargers a contender in the AFC. It should only be a matter of when the sides come together.

Michael Thomas, WR. **Saints:** A second-round pick from 2016, Thomas enters the final year of his rookie contract and is currently one of the best bargains in the NFL. His production (321 catches for 3,787 yards and 23 TDs in three years) far outpaces his pay (due \$1.15 million in base salary in 2019). That should change in a big way for the two-time Pro Bowler and 2018 all-pro pick. After New Orleans ponied up to extend defensive end Cam Jordan earlier in June, Thomas should be the next priority and might be in line to become the highest-paid receiver in the NFL.

Amari Cooper, WR, Cow**boys:** Prescott isn't the only Cowboy waiting to get paid. Cooper will play under the fifth-year option of his rookie deal (\$13.9 million in base salary) and is scheduled to become a free agent after the season. But since Dallas invested a first-round pick in its trade to acquire Cooper, it's almost certain the team will keep him on a sizable deal.

Julio Jones, WR, Falcons: Jones is one of the game's best pass catchers and significantly underpaid, as he's set to earn a little more than \$21 million over the next two years. By comparison, Antonio Brown just signed a three-year, \$50.13 million deal with the Raiders. After Jones signed a contract adjustment last offseason, a full extension could be in order before the start of training camp.

A.J. Green, WR, Bengals: Last but certainly not least,

Green is another wideout waiting for a pay bump. One interesting note: the first deal to get done among Thomas, Cooper, Jones or Green could alter the outlook for others. Some might prefer to wait for the dust to settle before signing their names.

Ezekiel Elliott, RB, Cowboys: Elliott and Prescott arrived in the same draft class, but Elliott is under contract for an additional year thanks to his fifth-year option for 2020.

Jalen Ramsey, CB, Jaguars: Ramsey is locked up through 2020 on a fifth-year option. And whenever Ramsey gets his, he'll likely set the cornerback market. Ramsey said recently at minicamp that he "will not be getting a contract extension this year" because the Jaguars haven't been eager to renegotiate.

Prescott, Thomas next in line for big-money extensions

rookie contract. That's about to change, and the Wentz contract figures to be the measuring stick of Prescott's market. Cowboys owner Jerry Jones and his son, Stephen, the team's executive vice president, have repeatedly praised Prescott for what he brings to the team. Now they'll have to show what they think that's

Tom Brady, QB, Patrilock in one of the greatest to ever do it-more than likely

Norway, Germany reach quarterfinals

NICE, France (AP) — Ingrid Hjelmseth proved to be a shootout hero once again as Norway beat Australia on penalties Saturday night to advance to the quarterfinals of the Women's World Cup.

Hjelmseth saved Emily Gielnik's kick and Ingrid Engen, who is playing in her first World Cup, hit the decisive penalty as Norway won the shootout 4-1 after the match had finished 1-1.

Australia captain Sam Kerr, who was frustrated by Norway most of the night despite several opportunities, fired her penalty shot high and wide.

"It was a great win," Hjelmseth said. "I was just focusing and picking a side when they put the ball down. I was just telling myself, 'OK, I will go to the right,' and then I took a chance and it was good for us, it was the right side."

Hjelmseth saved two penalties in her last shootout—the semifinal of the 2013 European Championship.

"That was a good one," she said. "I think when you're a goalie you can only be a hero so it's just about picking a side and just finding the right timing to go so you don't get the VAR stuff."

Norway will face the winner of Sunday's game between England and Cameroon.

The shootout came after a game during which neither team had a clear advantage, though Norway succeeded in keeping Australia's Kerr from being much of factor. Kerr had a goal ruled out in the second half after offside was called. Australia also had two penalties denied on video review in normal time.

The game went to extra time after Australia's Elise Kellond-Knight scored from a corner to make it a 1-1 game in the 83rd minute.

Forward Isabell Herlovsen put Norway up 1-0 with a goal in the 31st.

Australia had to play the final 16 minutes of extra time at a numerical disadvantage after

defender Alanna Kennedy was sent off on a red card for

hauling down Norway forward Lisa-Marie Utland. Norway peppered Australia's goal but was repeatedly denied by goalkeeper Lydia Williams.

"It was tough," Kerr said.
"A lot of the girls had already played a lot of minutes so we were already running on empty and then obviously Alanna getting sent off is not ideal but we stuck together. We were still confident and believing in each other but it just didn't come off tonight."

Kerr ended the tournament tied with American Alex Morgan for the most goals at five.

Meanwhile, Alexandra



Popp had just scored a goahead goal against Nigeria in her 100th international appearance when Japanese referee Yoshimi Yamashita signaled for a video review to determine whether a German teammate Svenja Huth, who was in an offside position, obstructed the view of goalkeeper Chiamaka Nnadozie.

"I was a bit irritated to be honest," the German captain said through a translator.

Popp's goal stood, and a few minutes later the match

Norway's Isabell Herlovsen, left, and Australia's Emily van Egmond vie for the ball during the Women's World Cup round of 16 soccer match at the Stade de Nice in Nice, France, Saturday, June 22, 2019.

was stopped for another video review, this time to determine whether Germany's Lina Magull had been fouled in the penalty area by Evelyn Nwabuoko. Having seen the stud marks in her teammate's leg, Popp was pleased the referee took a look and awarded a penalty kick.

"Otherwise, I would have

asked myself why we were using this technology," Popp said, "so it was quite obvious in the pictures."

Germany advanced to the Women's World Cup quarter-finals for the eighth straight time, beating African champion Nigeria, 3-0

Nigeria coach Thomas Dennerby endorsed VAR but said it caused disruptions.

"Football is also a game with a rhythm and if you break the rhythm sometimes that is not good," he said. "It's good for the game, but I don't think anybody really has the final solution for VAR yet."

US defense will face greater challenges in knockout round

REIMS, France (AP)—Much of the attention on the United States rightly goes to its prolific offense, especially after that 13-goal game to open the Women's World Cup, but the team's defense has been predictably reliable so far in France.

The defense has posted shutouts in the team's first three games, marking the first time the United States has not conceded a goal in the group stage at the tournament. The defending champions open the knockout round Monday against Spain.

Goalkeeper Alyssa Naeher saw little action during the team's rout of Thailand in the opener, but matches against Chile and Sweden provided incrementally tougher tests.

"To come away from group play with three shutouts, as a team defensively, I'm very proud of that," she said. "It's a goal that we have going into every game, especially as a back line, to keep clean sheets. We put a lot of time into team defending as well, all 11 players on the field are defending,

and that cohesiveness is what helps bring that."

The team's backline in France has shifted due to lineup changes and injuries. Veteran center back Becky Sauerbrunn was held out of the first game because of a minor injury, but came back against Chile when coach Jill Ellis rested players.

Against Sweden, Ellis used the backline that is expected to start in the knockout phase, with Abby Dahlkemper alongside Sauerbrunn, Kelley O'Hara on the right and Crystal Dunn on the left. Dunn was especially effective against Sweden and in thwarting forward Sofia Jakobsson.

The United States has seven clean sheets in its last eight World Cup matches—the exception being the two goals allowed in the team's 5-2 victory over Japan in the 2015 final. The United States went 540 minutes in Canada without conceding a goal, the longest streak in the tournament since Germany's record 679 scoreless minutes from 2003-11.

FIFA WOMEN'S WORLD CUP FRANCE 2019 JUN 24 | 12:00 ET JUN 28 | 3:00 ET JUN 29 | 12:30 ET JUN 29 | 9:00 ET JUN 25 | 12:00 ET JUN 25 | 12:00 ET CHN RED JUN 25 | 12:00 ET CHN TENOR

CNMI

From Page 28

nesia, Thailand, and Guam.

The CNMI's victory over Hong Kong was a come-frombehind feat, as the latter clung to a 3-2 lead after the top of the sixth and last inning.

At the bottom of the sixth, Casey Chambers led off for the CNMI and walked. Ezra Ada was next at bat and his bunt moved Greg Tebit, who pinched run for Chambers, to second. With runners on first and second, Isaiah Mesa stepped up to the plate and connected on his target, bringing Tebit home and tying the intense match at 3-all. Noah Iguel also made a hit, but the CNMI failed to capitalize, as Ada was tagged out at home.

Albert Adriano joined Ada in the dugout, as the former flied out, leaving Hong Kong one out away from bringing the game into extra inning. However, Dylan Santos made sure the match will end right away in the sixth, as his hit brought Mesa home and gave the CNMI a 2-0 record in the tournament.

Hong Kong threatened to deny the Commonwealth an undefeated record in Pool B after scoring three runs at the top of the sixth inning. Earlier at the bottom of the fourth, the CNMI finally ended its silence and took the lead after making two runs.

Meanwhile, in their lopsided win over Vietnam last Saturday, the CNMI set up the rout after drilling nine runs at the bottom of the second inning. Before pulling away, Camacho's wards were up by only 3 after one complete inning, 5-2.

Vietnam, however, were shutdown in the next two innings, while the CNMI remained on target to get the early win via 10-run mercy rule. The CNMI scored four homers in the easy triumph over Vietnam.

After their back-to-back victories, the Commonwealth

bets hope to extend their streak and zero in on a semis berth today when they take on winless New Zealand. After the match against the Kiwis, the CNMI will take a rest tomorrow before closing out pool play on Wednesday against Chinese-Taipei—another favored team in the tournament.

Chinese-Taipei crushed New Zealand yesterday, 16-0. In other results on Day 2 of the competition, South Korea dominated Guam, 11-0; China topped Indonesia, 5-0; and the Philippines edged Thailand; 11-8. Last Saturday, the Philippines nosed out Guam, 4-3; South Korea whipped China, 17-0; Hong Kong won over New Zealand, 6-1; and Indonesia nipped Thailand, 3-2.

In the 50/70, the CNMI bowed to the Philippines, 1-5.

IT&E steps up to the plate

IT&E is proud to support the CNMI Majors All-Star Team.

IT&E purchased uniforms for the squad, valued at \$2,000.

"Sporting events like this are an amazing opportunity for our youth to see the world, learn about other cultures, make new friends, and pursue their passions. We're happy to help make that happen for our Little League athletes and we wish them good luck," IT&E CNMI general manager Rose Soledad said.

"Support from the community really bolsters the confidence of our athletes. We thank our friends at IT&E for their generosity. We're excited to represent the Northern Mariana Islands in these brand new uniforms and are ready to give it our all," said Joey Dela Cruz, whose son, Joey Vincent, is a member of the team.

For over 35 years, IT&E has been delivering connections that matter. IT&E serves more than 90,000 subscribers on the widest 4G LTE Data Network in Guam and the Marianas.

ATALIG

From Page 28

Classic. Atalig and Lee logged identical gross scores of 3-over par 75, but the former had a bogey on the tiebreak hole No. 4 against the latter's par.

"I've been struggling with my putting the fast few tournaments, so I am happy that in this competition, I was able to pull in through. I am relieved, especially now that we are less than a month away from the Pacific Games.

Atalig, along with Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho, Ryan Kim, Sebastian Camacho, and Marco Peter will represent the CNMI to the 2019 Pacific Games that will be held in Apia, Samoa from July 7 to 20.

Atalig was three strokes behind Chun after the first nine

holes, 35-38, but managed to force the standoff after firing a 2-under par 34 in the last nine. Atalig made a birdie on the par-4, 362-yard No. 12 and an eagle on the par-4, 374-yard No. 16.

"Kamikaze" and Sebastian also joined last Saturday's tournament and was entered, too in the competitive Championship Flight. The older Camacho rounded out the Top 3 in the division after shooting a 73, while Sebastian posted an 86. Paul Kaipat (75), Uriah Perez (80), and Steven Aguon (87) completed the competitors list in the Championship Flight.

Meanwhile, winners in other divisions of the tournament organized to raise funds for the Joeten Daidai Foundation, will be reported in *Saipan Tribune*'s Tuesday edition.

28 MONDAY, JUNE 24, 2019

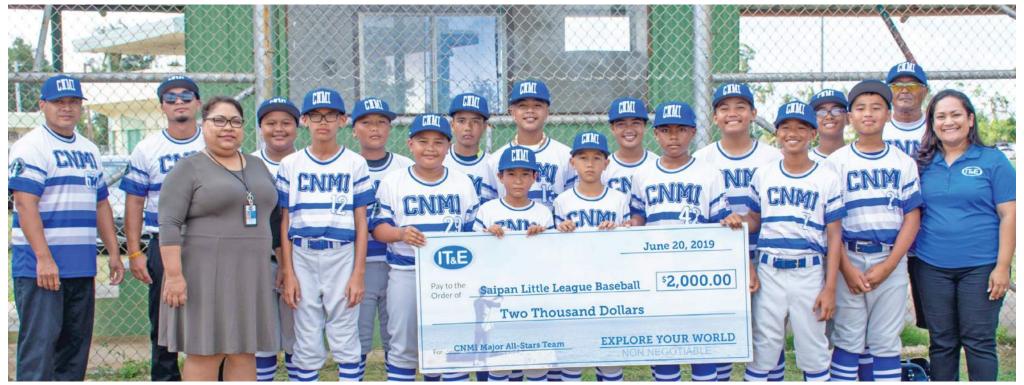
Norway, Germany reach quarterfinals

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

MI still unbeaten



The CNMI Majors All-Star Team players and officials pose with IT&E's Janice Tenorio, third left, and

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wo down, two more two go for the CNMI Majors All-Star Team. The Commonwealth bets boosted their playoff chances in the 2019 Asia Pacific-Middle East Regional Tournament after sweeping their first two matches in pool play over the weekend at

Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield. The CNMI had a rousing debut in the World Series qualifier after pouncing on

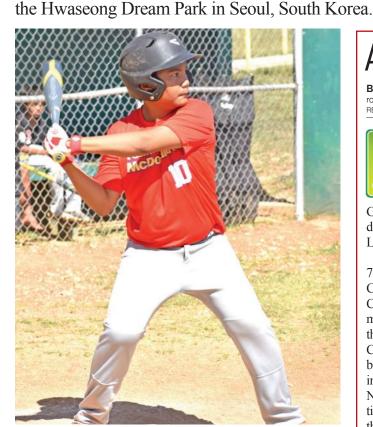
Vietnam last Saturday, 18-2. Then yesterday, the Gregorio T. Camacho-managed squad returned to the field and eked out a thrilling 4-3 victory over

Hong Kong to remain undefeated in Pool B and lead the group ahead of the favored Chinese-Taipei (1-0).

Natashia Tomokane, right, during the uniform presentation ceremony last Thursday at the Miguel "Tan

Hong Kong fell to a 1-1 record, while Vietnam had a 0-1 mark. New Zealand completes the pool and is at the bottom of the standings with a 0-2 record. Only the Top 2 teams after the round-robin elimination will advance to the playoffs and battle the qualifiers in Pool A, which has defending champion Korea, China, Indo-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Casey Chambers, seen here getting ready to bat during their game against the Little Legals in the 2019 Saipan Little League Baseball at the Capitol Hill Ballfield, hit a homer in the CNMI Majors All-Star Team's 18-2 rout of Vietnam during their opening game in the 2019 Asia Pacific-Middle East Regional Tournament last Saturday at the Hwaseong Dream Park in Seoul. South Korea.

Atalig rules Joeten Memorial Golf

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com



Pacific Gamesbound Atalig topped the 2019 Joeten Memorial

Golf Classic held last Saturday on the east course of the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

Atalig shot an even par 2, the same score Jin Feng Chun recorded, but the CNMI National Golf Team member won the tiebreak and the first place honors in the Championship Flight. Atalig broke the deadlock after saving par on the par-3, 188-yard No. 11, which was the second tiebreak hole. Chun bogeyed the deciding hole. Both Atalig and Chun bogeved the first tiebreak hole—the par-4, 402-yard No. 7.

ning end of the tiebreak. I course of the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

finally got the break," said naments, with the recent one Atalig, who had a couple of tiebreakers in previous tour-

against junior golfer Edward Lee during the 23rd Hyatt Regency Saipan Charity Golf

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Five players, including Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, left, and J.J. Atalig, center, show the prizes they "Finally, I was on the win- won after making an eagle in the 2019 Joeten Memorial Golf Classic held last Saturday on the east